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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Vt. town secession vote: Only a year after generating a flurry of publicity for voting to secede and join New Hampshire, residents of Killington, Vt., are being asked to decide on Town Meeting day whether to rethink the idea.

"It's been a year, so it seemed like a good time to update people about where we stand and to bring the issue up again in a substantive way," Town Manager David Lewis said. "It seemed appropriate to tie it in with a vote at Town Meeting to give the voters the ability to say, 'We don't want to go any further.'"

Blake murder trial: The defense in Robert Blake's murder trial tried to undermine the testimony of two key prosecution witnesses — both former drug users — by calling on an expert who said chronic drug use can cause hallucinations and paranoid delusions.

Regular use of cocaine and methamphetamine also can cause irreversible brain damage, said Ronald Keith Siegel, a psychopharmacologist on the faculty of the University of California, Los Angeles, medical school.

Judge's libel case: A judge who said he was misquoted in a series of articles as telling lawyers that a 14-year-old rape victim should "get over it" has won a \$2.1 million libel case against the Boston Herald.

Jurors deliberated for more than 20 hours over five days before finding Friday that the newspaper and reporter David Wedge libeled Judge Ernest B. Murphy. Another reporter, Jules Crittenden, was cleared.

Serial rape suspect: A man believed to be the convicted rapist who slipped away from officers in November after confessing to another assault was captured Friday after attacking a woman and stealing her car, police said.

The man was taken into custody in Glenwood Springs, about 150 miles west of Denver, according to Denver Police Chief Gerry Whitman. He was being held on \$25 million bail early Saturday.

Brent J. Brents, 35, is suspected in the sexual assaults on five women and girls earlier this month in Denver — nearly three months after he was questioned by police in Aurora about claims that he inappropriately touched a former girlfriend's 8-year-old son.

University admissions law: The University



JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

All smiles: Girl Scouts pile in a picture booth in the Shibuya area of Tokyo while enjoying a "Girls Night Out" Friday, capping several days of workshops during the Annual Girl Scout Winter Training Conference.

ty of Houston has decided to automatically admit applicants in the top 20 percent of their graduating class, sidestepping the controversial top 10 percent admissions law.

University officials said the revised policy will be implemented in the fall 2006 semester regardless of what happens with ongoing legislative attempts to change the law.

Michael Jackson trial: Los Angeles prosecutors in the child molestation trial of Michael Jackson want court permission to subpoena the star's financial records and present expert testimony about his wealth, according to documents released Friday.

Defense lawyers argued the materials are not relevant and violate Jackson's privacy.

Public pool ruling: A Muslim woman who was barred from accompanying her children to a public swimming pool because she was fully clothed settled a lawsuit Friday against the city of Omaha, Neb.

The city said it amended its swimming pool dress code to accommodate religious or medical needs. Other details of the settlement with Lubna Hussein were not made public.

"We're happy to feel like part of the community again," Hussein said.

Human smuggling: The New York man accused of driving and abandoning a hot, airless tractor-trailer in the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt will not be allowed to waive his right to a jury trial, a judge decided Friday in Houston.

If Tyrone Williams' request had been approved, U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore would have decided if he was guilty or not guilty of any of 58 counts of harboring and transporting illegal immigrants he faces for the May 2003 smuggling attempt. Nineteen immigrants died.

Williams faces the death penalty in the case, scheduled to go to trial next week.

Military

Accused drill instructor: A drill instructor who struck a Marine recruit who later died during training has been suspended pending an investigation into the death, military officials said Friday.

Jason Tharp of Sutton, W.Va., drowned Feb. 8 while participating in a water-survival training course at Fort Belvoir, Mo.

The day before his death, a Columbia, S.C., television station recorded a confrontation between Tharp and the drill instructor, who was seen in the video grabbing Tharp by the shirt and striking him in the chest.

Gitmo translator sentenced: An American translator who admitted taking classified documents from the U.S. prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, was sentenced Friday to 20 months in prison.

With time already served, Ahmed Fahmy Mehalha could be released in three weeks.

Mehalha, 32, an Egyptian-born U.S. citizen and civilian Arabic translator at Guantanamo, told the judge he exercised "very poor judgment" when he took computer discs out of the country. But he said he never intended to use the files for any illicit purpose.

World

East Timor abuses: Secretary-General Kofi Annan has appointed a commission of experts to review the prosecution of human rights violations during a wave of violence after East Timor voted for independence from Indonesia in 1999.

The U.N. Security Council expressed concern in November at Indonesia's failure to punish those responsible for the violence that killed 1,500 people and left much of East Timor in ruins.

Stories from The Associated Press

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Misawa looking for bazaar volunteers

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — There's a foot of snow on the ground, but the Misawa Officers Spouses Club is thinking spring. Spring bazaar, to be exact.

The group is calling on Misawa residents to volunteer. More than 200 are needed for the Far East Bazaar to be held March 19 and 20 in Hangar 949, said Kim Milner, public chairwoman for the bazaar and MOSC.

"It's a fabulous weekend," Milner said. "The volunteers have a great time. We couldn't do it without their help. It really is a total community effort."

Volunteers will work with vendors out on the floor, helping them write sales tickets and packaging purchases, she said. They'll also assist with inputting sales data and other paperwork in the business office during the event.

Volunteers work four-hour shifts. In exchange, "there are perks," Milner said.

All four volunteers are eligible for door-prize drawings during their shift, and are allowed to pre-shop before the bazaar opens to the rest of the base community on Saturday," she said.

Door prizes are donated by the bazaar's vendors.

This year, about 30 vendors from all over Asia are expected at the bazaar. Milner said furniture sellers from South Korea, China and Hong Kong will be on hand.

Other items to be sold include Japanese antiques, kotoshi dolls, obi and kimono, and Persian rugs from Pakistan.

The newest vendor, who was featured for the first time in the club's annual fall bazaar, is from India.

"I had some really neat fabric goods, like duvet covers, pillow shams, tablecloths and runners," Milner said.

Besides volunteers, MOSC also is seeking donations of food for volunteers and vendors throughout the weekend, Milner said.

"We are asking for donations of bottled water and soda and individually-wrapped snacks," she said. Those items can be dropped off at the hospitality room in Hangar 949 starting March 18.

MOSC also contracts with private organizations to set up food and other booths and is currently seeking organizations for that work.

The spring bazaar is one of the club's biggest fund-raisers of the year. Proceeds are donated to community organizations and scholarship funds, Milner said.

To get on the list to volunteer for the bazaar, send an e-mail to: fareastbazaar@yahoo.com.

"You can list your shift preference and we'll do our best to accommodate you," Milner said.

The bazaar runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 19, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 20. It's open to all status-of-forces-agreement identification card holders.

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svan@stripes.osd.mil

And they're off ...



MARVIN E. THOMPSON JR., Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Participants start the President's Day 3K/5K Run on Friday at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan. Fitness participants ran three kilometers, while the hard-core runners ran five. The run started off in front of Nimitz Park amid rain and 41-degree temperatures. The President's Day run is one of 25 scheduled this year by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Fun Run Club.

Badge for 'infantry-like job'

Army clarifies criteria for new Close Combat Badge

BY LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army's new combat badge is designed to honor non-infantry soldiers performing infantry roles, not simply those who find themselves in combat situations, the service's chief of personnel said Friday.

"While everyone in Iraq and Afghanistan is in harm's way, there is a difference between combat operations such as patrols fighting off attacks and deliberately planned offensive combat missions," said Lt. Gen. Franklin L. "Buster" Hagenbeck.

"The [new badge] is the right thing to do to recognize those soldiers in units purposefully reorganized to serve as infantry and conducting infantry-unique missions."

Criteria for the Close Combat Badge, unveiled last week, will mirror that of the Army's 62-year-old Combat Infantry Badge, awarded to infantry units and special forces who engage in active ground combat.

Hagenbeck said the CCB was created after generals in the war on terror complained that "de facto infantry" — non-infantry units that have been reorganized for that type of combat missions — were not being properly recognized for their work.

The Close Combat Badge will be awarded to soldiers with military occupational specialties in armor, the cavalry, combat engineering, and field artillery. Officers must have a branch or specialty recognized in Army regulations as "having a high probability to routinely engage in direct combat."

Proposed guide for new badge

Who is eligible:

■ Colonel or below for officers; all enlisted soldiers are eligible. ■ Enlisted soldiers must have a Military Occupational Specialty in Armor or Cavalry (CMF 19), Artillery (CMF 13), or Combat Engineer (CMF 12).

■ Officers must have a branch or specialty officially recognized in Army Regulation 611-1 as "having a high probability to routinely engage in direct combat."

Soldiers must be:

■ Assigned or attached to an Army brigade or smaller unit that is purposely organized to routinely conduct close combat operations and engage in direct combat, in accordance with existing Army rules and policy.

■ Under fire while engaged in active ground combat, to moving into contact and destroying the enemy with direct fire.

■ Battle or campaign participation is not sufficient to qualify for this award; the unit must have been in active ground combat.

Effective date:

Sept. 11, 2001 (retroactive)

Source: U.S. Army

But other soldiers have complained publicly that other forces caught in ambushes and fire-fights in Iraq have faced the same combat situations and deserve the honor as well.

On Friday, Hagenbeck called their service commendable, but said the idea behind the combat badges is to recognize those with an infantry mission.

"The CCB is for an infantry-like job," he said. "It's an emotional issue. The CCB has been around for more than 60 years, a lot of discussion went into this. The consensus was that these soldiers needed to be recognized for this job."

Officials plan to make the honor retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001, and want to begin awarding the new badge in March, though

the actual badge will not be available until the fall.

Hagenbeck said the design for the badge has not been finalized, but plans call for the CCB's rifle to be replaced with a bayonet.

Under current Army rules, all soldiers are allowed to wear their unit patch on their right shoulder as a combat patch after serving 30 days in an authorized combat area.

Hagenbeck said officials also plan to honor non-Army troops serving with CCB and CIB eligible units with those badges as well, the first time non-Army fighters would receive such an honor.

That could include both U.S. forces and foreign nationals embedded with Army combat units, Hagenbeck said.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shane@stripes.osd.mil

Arnn pupils ready to rock

Stars and Stripes

A week after a moderate earthquake rocked and rolled the Kanto Plain, pupils at Arnn Elementary School at Sagami-hara Housing Area near Tokyo will be able to recreate the experience Wednesday as part of an Earthquake Awareness program at the school.

The daylong event will feature an earthquake truck and smokehouse brought in by the Sagami-hara City Fire Department that allows children to safely experience earthquakes and house fires.

The earthquake truck's interior looks like a room with a kitchen and can simulate earthquakes with a range of magnitudes, from small to major tremors. It teaches

kids how to move around and find safety.

It can simulate specific major earthquakes that have hit Japan to show how serious the incidents were.

The smokehouse uses a tent filled with clean, odorless smoke to show the effects of reduced visibility and how smoke rises during a fire.

In addition to Sagami-hara's simulators, Camp Zama's Fire Department will bring fire trucks for display and the Safety Office will provide safety information.

Wednesday's event originally scheduled for last November but rained out, will be held in the school parking lot from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The truck will be open to members of the local community starting at 2:15.

U.S. Special Olympics team to visit Yokota

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Base residents are invited to help greet and assist the U.S. Special Olympics team at Yokota's Air Mobility Command terminal 10 a.m. Tuesday.

About 280 team members will transit through Yokota's 730th Air Mobility Squadron en route to Nagano Prefecture, Japan, to compete in the winter Special Olympics from Feb. 26 to March 5. Some athletes will compete in alpine and cross-country skiing, figure skating, floor hockey, snowboarding, snowshoeing and speed skating, according to a base news release.

Volunteers are needed to carry baggage, escort athletes and help with refreshments, according to a base news report. Yokota's honor guard will help honor the athletes as base school children hold posters and signs to support the athletes.

E-mail general.moreno@yokota.af.mil or call the 374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office at DSN 225-9833 for more information.

From staff reports

Don't investigate alleged serial rapists

BY CORKY SIEMASZKO

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Stung by reports of serial rapists in the ranks, the Pentagon said Friday it would investigate the defenses identified by a watchdog group.

More than a year after Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld declared "zero tolerance" for rape, the number of troops who claim to have been violated has nearly tripled, the Mils Foundation reported.

"This indicates to us that rape in the ranks continues to be a problem in the military," said Anita Sanchez, spokeswoman for the Connecticut-based foundation. The nonprofit group assists servicemen who have been sexually assaulted.

Sanchez said the foundation has received 307 reports of sexual assault occurring over the last 30 months from soldiers — mostly female — serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and Bahrain. And many are reluctant to report rapes to their superiors.

"We're looking and trying to determine who these predators are," said Lt. Col. Joe Richard, a Pentagon spokesman.

Sanchez said her organization forwarded the names of the suspected servicemen to their respective services.

Each has been accused by two or more soldiers who came to the Mils Foundation for help. Six are in the Army, two are in the Marines and one each is in the Navy and Air Force.

We report it to the services, as opposed to the Pentagon, because the services have direct authority over those individuals," Sanchez said. "There are protocols we go through."

Sanchez said they also have gotten reports about a private security guard who al-

Former guardsman to discuss alleged rape on '60 Minutes'

In an interview that airs Sunday on CBS' "60 Minutes," former Lt. Jennifer Dyer of the New Jersey National Guard said the Army treated her "like a criminal" when she reported being raped at Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Given two weeks to recover, Dyer said, "I was told that if I didn't turn on time, they would send MPs to my door and have me arrested. They stated that two weeks was enough time to recover from such an incident."

But Dyer's alleged attacker was still on the base. So she went AWOL and was later granted an honorable discharge.

"I was fearful of my health and safety and sanity," says Dyer of Mays Landing, N.J., who is a police officer in civilian life.

The Army "has done nothing but lie to me and treat me like a criminal," said the 26-year-old Dyer, who is from Mays Landing and has agreed to be identified by name. CBS released a partial tran-

script of the taped interview on Thursday.

Her alleged attacker, Michael Hall, 35, also a National Guard lieutenant, is scheduled to go on trial on rape charges next month in a military court in Alabama. He has said the sex was consensual.

Dyer's lawyer, Frederick Klepp, said the alleged attack occurred after she went to an officer's club last August while training at Camp Shelby, near Hattiesburg, Miss.

Hall's lawyer, Victor Kelley, has said that the sex was consensual and Dyer made up the rape allegation to get out of serving in Iraq.

She has since requested and received an honorable discharge.

Last month, a military hearing officer said there was not enough evidence and recommended that the rape charge be dropped.

— From wire reports

Based on victim interviews, the group has identified 10 servicemen and a military contractor who allegedly each sexually assaulted anywhere from two to two dozen soldiers.

Of the 307 reports of sexual assault received by the Mils Foundation from troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and Bahrain, 104 cases already have been reported to military authorities, Sanchez said.

Part of the reason for the difference in numbers may lie in how sexual assaults are defined. Often defense officials will only note alleged cases of forcible rape, she said, while the foundation figures also include less violent assaults.

And, Sanchez noted, the actual number of sex crimes could be even higher, since many of these types of offenses are not reported to authorities.

"Four of the rape victims are men and we believe the true number is higher," Sanchez said. "In the culture of the military, there is an enormous amount of shame."

Kate Summers, a director with the foundation, said victims who are serving overseas often do not have the resources they need following a sexual assault.

"The availability of supplies, such as rape evidence kits, and trained personnel to provide care and treatment remains a challenge for victims in deployed units," she said.

Also, because of "don't ask, don't tell" rules, male victims are less likely to report an attack for fear of being labeled homosexual and getting drummed out of the service, Sanchez said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Leo Shane III contributed to this report.

Video-link reunions lift morale

By T.A. BADGER

The Associated Press

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Christina Favila hadn't been face to face with her husband since Christmas, when his Army Reserve unit shipped out to Iraq for a year, so she wanted to look her best.

She picked a crisp silver-white tailored blouse and tan slacks for the occasion. Her eye makeup and soft pink lipstick were carefully applied, and her dark brown hair freshly streaked with bright orange highlights.

"I feel like I'm going on my first date," the 24-year-old mother of three said. "My hands are sweaty. I'm just nervous. I haven't seen him in so long."

All this fuss for 10 minutes together, and they wouldn't be the same room. The reunion came last weekend via a 7,500-mile live video link between this Army post in San Antonio and a U.S. base in Mosul, where 24-year-old Ft. Javalina Favila Jr. works as a clerk with the 228th Combat Support Hospital.

Almost since the war began in 2003, high-tech hookups have provided morale boosts for soldiers who get to see their children born after deployment or watch a toddler blow out his first



Christina Favila, top right, with her mother Maria Lopez, left, and two daughters, Aliea, G. right, and Misty Rae, wave as they take part in a Favila family reunion via a 7,500-mile live video link between Fort Sam Houston and a U.S. base in Mosul, where Pic. Javalina Favila Jr. works as a clerk with the 228th Combat Support Hospital.

birthday candle.

Christina Favila wanted to tell Javalina that 6-year-old Aliea is doing well in kindergarten and she's become Mommy's big helper around the house. And that Misty Rae, 3, and Ethan, almost 2, are settling down after weeks of confusion and anger after he left.

Aliea could only stare silently at the TV, tears rolling down her cheeks. Misty Rae, in her grandmother's arms, beamed with joy.

During the exchange, the

grownups talked about the recent spate of cold and rainy weather, and Christina ticked off the long list of people who she hello.

"Tell everybody I'm doing OK, I'm doing fine," he said as time was running out. "I miss you very much. I love you all."

Christina had held it together until then. "I love you, too," she barely managed to say before covering her face with her hands and sobbing quietly. He blew kisses with both hands and stepped out of the camera's view.

E-mail scam preys on families of fallen soldiers

WASHINGTON — Federal authorities are investigating two e-mail scams, including one targeting families of soldiers killed in Iraq, that claim to be connected to the Homeland Security Department.

The scams "are among the worst we have ever encountered," Michael J. Garcia, director of the department's Immigration and Customs Enforcement bureau, said Friday.

Both of the online plots for help — and money — link themselves to the bureau.

In one scheme, e-mail sent to families of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq include a link to the bureau's Web site. The e-mail seeks to recover money from a friend of the slain soldier.

In the other, the e-mail identifies itself as being sent by a federal agent looking for funds looted from the Iraqi Central Bank by Saddam Hussein's son. The e-mail also links to the bureau Web site and asks for confirmation of the recipient's address, saying "There is a very important and confidential matter which I want us both to discuss."

From The Associated Press

Yokota Baptist Church

Pastor Warren Webster

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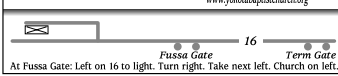
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At least 55 dead in Iraq violence

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Insurgents and suicide bombers struck out in Baghdad and other parts of Iraq on Saturday, leaving at least 55 people dead as Shiites commemorated the death 14 centuries ago of the founder of their Muslim sect.

For the second year, the attacks shattered the commemoration of Ashura, the holiest day of the Shiite religious calendar. The dead this year included a U.S. soldier, killed in Baghdad when American troops responded to calls for assistance from Iraqi forces unable to cope with a slew of attacks.

The country's interim government and Shiite political parties said they would not allow the country to slip into civil war just days before the religious group's politi-

cal parties take control of Iraq.

The attacks made Saturday the deadliest day since last month's elections for a new national assembly. The Shiite ticket, the United Iraqi Alliance, won 48 percent of the vote in Iraq's first democratic balloting.

A series of similar attacks, some carried out by suicide bombers, targeted Shiite mosques, killing 36 people on Friday.

"The bombings on Shiite mosques and shrines on Ashura by terrorists that call themselves Muslims are in fact actions by terrorists only attempting to spill even more Muslim blood by encouraging sectarian violence," said Mouwaffaq al-Rubaie, the national security adviser for the interim government.



A U.S. soldier covers the perimeter while others examine the body of one of two Iraqi police officers killed on a busy intersection Saturday in Mosul, Iraq. Each had been shot in the head and left on the side of the road. Across Iraq, a string of suicide bombings killed at least 55.

Afghan shootings

The U.S. military is investigating why American troops fatally shot two civilians outside a base near Afghanistan's western border with Iran, officials said Saturday.

U.S. troops opened fire on the two unarmed men after they entered an exclusion zone around the base on Feb. 11 near Shindand

Air Base in Herat province, said a spokesman for the provincial government. "Regrettably, two local nationals were killed, and we're investigating the situation right now," said Maj. Steve Wollman, a spokesman for the U.S. military.

The two families of the victims had received \$2,300 each in a "payment of condolence, but that's not an admission of guilt or wrong doing," he said.

Terrorist suspects surrender in Kuwait

BY DIANA ELIAS
The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY — Kuwaiti police Saturday arrested two men wanted for allegedly being connected to a terrorist group planning to attack Americans and Kuwaiti security forces, an Interior Ministry official said.

The men surrendered peacefully in a Kuwait City suburb, the official said on condition of anonymity. He would not identify them except to say they were Kuwaitis.

Since Jan. 10, four policemen and eight suspected terrorists have been killed in clashes around the country. A group of Muslim extremists is suspected of planning to attack American civilians living in Kuwait and members of the U.S. military stationed here or on their way to Iraq. Kuwait's state security apparatus also was a target, authorities said.

The alleged ringleader of the group, Amer al-Enezi, died of a heart attack while in custody, authorities said. The group did not carry out any attacks. But in one of their safe houses, near the border with Saudi Arabia, authorities found handwritten instructions for making bombs and chemicals that could be used to do so.

The alleged 24-member terrorist group included Jordanians, Saudis, Kuwaitis and stateless Arabs who have lived in this oil-rich state for decades without becoming citizens. The interior minister has said they received funds from Saudis and embraced the ideology of al-Qaida.

About 40 people suspected of having links to the group, including the wife of the deceased ringleader, are in custody, but it is not known whether they will be tried.

Kuwait has been a U.S. ally since the 1991 Gulf War that liberated it from a seven-month Iraqi occupation. However, militants opposing the U.S. military presence in their country have attacked Americans, killing one Marine and a civilian contractor since 2002.

Kuwait's Islamic movements have condemned the clashes between police and militants and offered to assist the government in its fight against extremism. But Westernized liberals say Islamists are afraid of losing political ground and accuse them of spreading a culture of intolerance and hate for the West that pushed young men to take up arms.

The government has decided to clamp down on extremism in mosques, reform school textbooks to reflect moderation and launch a national anti-terror media campaign.

Chalabi confident he'll be prime minister

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Ahmad Chalabi, the Washington insider who later fell out of favor with the United States, expressed confidence Friday that he was on the brink of being anointed by the United Iraqi Alliance to be the country's first democratically elected

prime minister.

Chalabi said that if he's chosen prime minister, he would seek to establish an agreement to govern the presence of U.S. troops and open the heavily fortified Green Zone, now housing government buildings and the U.S. and British embassies, to the Iraqi people.

He also promised to weed out

corruption, establish a strong judiciary that would put Saddam Hussein and his former officials on trial "quickly," and give Iraqis the government jobs now held by foreigners recruited by the Coalition Provisional Authority that ran Iraq before the interim government was established. Chalabi has emerged as one of the two leading

candidates to be the clergy-backed alliance's choice when a decision is made, possibly in a secret ballot early next week. The other is interim Vice President Ibrahim al-Jaafari.

When asked if a majority of alliance members would vote for him, Chalabi — a secular Shiite — replied with a single word: yes.

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Clinton, Bush visit tsunami area

The Associated Press

BAN NAM KHEM, Thailand — Former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton got a first-hand look Saturday at the devastation and grief unleashed by the Dec. 26 tsunami in South Asia, greeting children in a shattered fishing village and observing a moment's silence for tourists who perished.

The two former presidents and one-time political foes, who are leading private U.S. relief efforts, also dined with Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra at the beginning of a tour that will include stops in the next two days in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, which all were hard-hit.

Despite the carefully scripted schedule, Bush and Clinton appeared moved by what they saw, especially when two children who lost family members in the tsunami presented them with crayon drawings of the disaster. One showed a giant wave and a rescue helicopter and the other depicted floodwaters sweeping away people, cars and boats.

Clinton's eyes appeared to tear up and his voice trembled as he spoke about the trauma suffered by children in the village of Ban Nam Kheem. Later, he said the experience of visiting the village made him recall the "religious traditions" that "teach us that we're not really in control."

"It reminds us all to be a little more humble and grateful for every day," he said.

The two former presidents were asked by President Bush, the elder Bush's son, to lead the U.S. effort to provide private aid to the hundreds of thousands of tsunami victims.

"I don't think there's ever been a tragedy that affected the heartbeat of the American people as much as this tsunami has done," the senior Bush said in the shattered village of Ban Nam Kheem. "I don't think you can put a limit on it. It's so devastating. They're still finding wreckage, still actually some bodies being recovered."



FRANK WHITMAN/Special to Stars and Stripes

Former U.S. presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton are greeted upon their arrival Saturday at Andersen Air Force Base on Guam by: from left: Guam Governor Felix Camacho, Marine Lt. Gen. Robert Blackman, Commander of Operation Unified Assistance; Rear Admiral Arthur Johnson, Commander of the Naval Forces Marianas; Col. Jerry Rivera, Commander of the Guam Army National Guard; and Col. Gregg Sanders, Vice Commander of the 13th Air Force.



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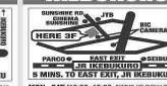
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U.S., Japan urge N. Korea to return to six-party talks

BY HARRY DUNPHY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Expressing deep concern about North Korea's nuclear weapons program, senior U.S. and Japanese officials on Saturday pressed the communist nation to soon resume international talks aimed at halting its arms development.

The North Korean government gave no indication it was interested.

"It really is time for North Korea to take seriously the concern of the international community" and return to talks involving the United States and four other nations, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice after joining Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in a meeting with their Japanese counterparts. Negotiations among the U.S., China, Japan, Russia and the United States offer North Korea the best path forward to se-



Rice

curity assurances and a better life for its people, Rice said at a news conference at the State Department.

"The North Koreans are continuing to bring about their own isolation by not dealing with this problem," Rice said.

But North Korea is not ready to resume the talks and does not want direct meetings with Washington, according to a report Saturday



Machimura

from China's official news agency, citing an unidentified North Korean official. Rice made clear the Bush administration has not offered

one-on-one negotiations and that the six-nation forum is what is available.

Japan's foreign minister, Nobutaka Machimura, joined Rice in urging an "early and unconditional resumption" of the talks.

Since 2003, China has hosted three inconclusive rounds of discussions. North Korea refused to

attend a fourth round, scheduled for last September, accusing the United States of trying to topple its government.

Machimura said there were "no prospects as to when they will return, but time is slipping by and this only worsens the situation." He suggested other countries might take a tougher line against North Korea should the impasse persist.

Added Rice: "They ought to return to those talks so that people don't have to contemplate other measures. They have a path ahead of them."

Machimura also said China, rather than serving as a moderator, should work more actively to try to persuade the North Koreans to rejoin talks.

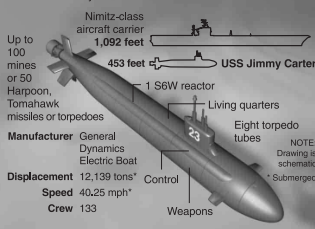
A top Chinese Communist Party official was in the North Korean capital on Saturday for a meeting with the North's No. 2 leader.

Rice said she hoped Beijing would convey the message that it believes "there can be no nuclear weapons" in either Korea.

Revising the stalled talks has become more urgent after North Korea's unconfirmed declaration this month that it has become a nuclear power.

Navy commissions USS Jimmy Carter

The USS Jimmy Carter, the most advanced submarine ever built, was commissioned Saturday with President Bush calling for a smaller submarine fleet and the Pentagon considering closing a number of military bases.



SOURCES: General Dynamics Electric Boat; GlobalSecurity.org; U.S. Navy

AP

Navy's final Seawolf also its most powerful

BY CARA RUBINSKY
The Associated Press

GROTON, Conn. — The USS Jimmy Carter entered the Navy's fleet Saturday as the most heavily armed submarine ever built, and as the last of the Seawolf class of attack subs the Pentagon ordered during the Cold War's final years.

The \$3.2 billion Jimmy Carter was commissioned Saturday, the first named after a living ex-president. Carter, himself a submariner during his time in the Navy, was on hand for the ceremony signaling the end of an era in submarine.

"The most deeply appreciated and emotional honor I've ever had is to have this great ship bear my name," Carter said in remarks prepared for the ceremony at the Naval Submarine Base Groton.

Carter was joined by his wife, Rosalynn, former Vice President

Walter Mondale and his wife, Joan, and Stansfield Turner, CIA director in the Carter administration.

The 453-foot, 12,000-ton submarine has a 50-torpedo payload and eight torpedo tubes. And, according to intelligence experts, it can tap undersea cables and eavesdrop on the communications passing through them.

It can reach speeds of more than 45 knots and carry Tomahawk cruise missiles and anti-submarine torpedoes, and it is engineered to be quieter than the other two Seawolves, making it better for surveillance.

John Pike, a military analyst with globalsec.org, said the ceremony closes the book on the big-submarine era.

"It was part of our strategy on how we were going to win World War III. It was a significant component in our response to the evil empire," he said.

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Weighing painkiller problem

What are the risks, rewards of pain relief drugs?

BY RANDOLPH E. SCHMID

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Experts advising the government decided there is a real risk of heart damage from some of the most effective and popular prescription drugs to ease the pain chronic diseases such as arthritis.

But those federal advisers, after three days of meetings last week, said the drugs offer enough benefits to let a patient and his doctor decide on their use. The scientists also recommended additional warnings for the drugs and further study.

In question and answer form, a look at the dilemma facing patients:

Q. Which drugs are in question?

A. A group of drugs called Cox-2 inhibitors, which ease pain by hampering the activity of the Cox-2 enzyme. Those approved for sale are Celebrex, Bextra and Vioxx — all big sellers in recent years.

Q. What is the problem?

A. Heart troubles and strokes. A long-term study showed people taking Vioxx had an increase in heart attacks and strokes. Drug maker Merck & Co. stopped sales of Vioxx in the fall. Since then similar warnings have surfaced about Pfizer Inc.'s Celebrex and Bextra.

Q. Why not use other painkillers?

A. Many of them, especially for those using them over long periods, can cause serious stomach damage and bleeding, which can also be life-threatening.

Q. How serious is the heart problem?

A. Dr. Alistair J.J. Wood of Vanderbilt University School of Medicine said the increase in heart problems is about 1 percent for people using Celebrex and higher for Bextra and Vioxx. The reported risk varied from study to study. "The data are very compelling, Vioxx is substantially worse than the others," Wood said.

Q. But that does not sound so bad — 1 percent.

A. These drugs are taken by millions of people, so even a small added risk can translate into thousands of heart attacks and strokes.

Q. What did the medical advisers recommend?

A. They concluded, unanimously, that all three drugs pose at least some risk. But the experts also thought the drugs provide enough benefits that people who need them ought to have that right.

Q. Does that mean that Vioxx will go back on sale?

A. Because Merck voluntarily withdrew it from the market, Vioxx is still an approved drug. Company officials said they might consider putting it back on sale now that they have learned the heart problems are not unique to their product.

Q. What about Celebrex and Bextra?

A. They remain on sale. The advisers did suggest adding label warnings, providing consumer with brochures and taking other steps to ensure people understand the risks. Some experts questioned whether there was evidence these drugs really do reduce stomach problems.



A customer looks at videos in a Newark, N.J., Blockbuster store. The state of New Jersey filed a lawsuit Friday charging that Blockbuster Inc. failed to disclose key terms in its new late fees policy.

N.J. sues Blockbuster over new late-fee policy

BY JEFFREY GOLD

The Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — The state of New Jersey claims Blockbuster Inc., the nation's largest movie-rental chain, has violated the state's consumer protection laws with its new policy on late fees.

In a lawsuit filed Friday, the state charged that Blockbuster failed to disclose key terms in the policy, including that overdue rentals are automatically converted to a sale on the eighth day after the due date.

The state is seeking restitution for customers whose overdue rentals were converted to a sale. It also wants compensation for people who were charged late fees by stores that were not participating in the new policy, but that failed to make that obvious.

State Attorney General Peter C. Harvey on Friday called the com-

pany's advertising and marketing "deceptive." He said state investigators began visiting dozens of the 170 Blockbuster stores in New Jersey even before receiving a complaint, and found that employees gave misleading or erroneous information on the policy.

To date, one aggrieved consumer has contacted the state, Harvey said, adding, "We will be flooded with complaints from people who will tell us this is their experience, too."

The lawsuit was filed in state Superior Court in Trenton.

In a statement, the Dallas-based chain said it has "taken a number of very thorough steps to let customers know how our new program works."

Blockbuster eliminated late fees on games and movies starting Jan. 1, although customers who miss a one-week grace period will be billed for buying the item or charged a \$1.25 restocking fee.

Man arrested seeking bin Laden bounty

BY ANGELA K. BROWN

The Associated Press

SANSOM PARK, Texas — A Texas man who told authorities he was headed to Syria to try to collect the \$25 million bounty on Osama bin Laden was rarely home and mostly kept to himself, neighbors said.

But a few weeks ago, Matt Mihsen walked through the yard of his tiny, white-clapboard A-frame house carrying a shotgun over his shoulder, wearing a green Army jacket and looking disheveled, a neighbor said Friday.

"He looked kind of wild," said Patty Kelley, 28, whose house is about 30 yards from Mihsen's. "I have a 4-year-old son, and I was like, 'Let's get in the house.'"

Mihsen, 47, remained in federal custody in Detroit on Friday, three days after his arrest at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport. He told agents that he was going to Syria in hopes of claiming the reward for information leading to bin Laden's arrest and conviction, according to a federal criminal complaint.

Mihsen, a naturalized U.S. citizen who was born in Syria, said he was a registered private investigator and wanted to conduct an independent probe into the illegal sale of uranium by extremists, authorities said.

He had flown Tuesday on Northwest Airlines from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport en route to the Netherlands and Syria, via Detroit, authorities said.

He was arrested on charges of making false statements to federal investigators, trying to smuggle bulk cash out of the United States and attempting to export

money and goods to Syria without a permit or authorization. The third charge, the most serious, carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

According to the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement,

Michigan denied carrying a large amount of cash before agents found he had nearly \$14,000. They found a stun gun, 40 rounds of ammunition, pepper spray, a bulletproof vest and three Geiger counters in his luggage, the affidavit said.



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Dad guilty of assault, child rape

The Associated Press

SALEM, Mass. — Patrick McMullen's wife and six children said he held them hostage for years in a converted nightclub behind an eight-foot double fence.

With dark cloth covering the windows, he raped his daughters, beat his wife and kept his family so isolated they didn't know how to turn on a shower before they finally fled in May 2001, family members said.

On Friday, McMullen, 41, of Salisbury, was convicted of charges including child rape and indecent assault and sentenced to 40 years to life in prison.

Before the sentencing, McMullen's wife, Christine McMullen, told Essex Superior Court Judge Howard Whitehead of the lasting effects of her husband's abuse.

"By abusing the children as he did, the childhood of six children has been murdered," she said.

McMullen's attorney, Michael Phelan, said he would appeal.

In written statements or conversations with prosecutor Kathe Tutman, McMullen's children expressed no regrets about watching their father go to prison.



Koko, the gorilla who converses in sign language is seen admiring a kitten in 1985. Two fired caretakers for Koko have sued their former bosses, claiming they were pressured to expose their breasts as a way of bonding with the gorilla.

AP

Signing gorilla's ex-handlers sue over breast-baring claim

BY JESSIE SEYFER

Knight Ridder Newspapers

SAN JOSE, Calif. — We already knew that Koko the gorilla liked sign language, kittens and painting. But nipples? That's what two fired handlers at the Gorilla Foundation in Woodside, Calif., say they were told by the organization's president, Francine "Penny" Patterson. In a lawsuit filed Tuesday in San Mateo County court, the handlers say Patterson demanded the two women bare their breasts to the famed

lowland primate because Patterson believes the animal enjoys it.

An attorney for the Foundation flatly denied the allegations.

The handlers, Nancy Alperin and Kendra Keller, claim that last summer, Patterson told them their job status would suffer if they did not indulge Koko's "nipple fetish."

On several occasions in May through June of last year, Patterson told Alperin that "exposing one's breasts to Koko was a normal component to developing a personal bond with the gorilla," the suit alleges.

The women refused. A few weeks later, they alerted the state health department of sanitary problems at the wooded gorilla preserve. The Foundation fired them on Aug. 6, the day after the health department inspected the facility, according to the lawsuit. Court records show the inspectors fined the preserve \$300 on Aug. 24.

Alperin and Keller are suing Patterson and the foundation for sexual discrimination, wrongful termination, and negligent infliction of emotional distress, among other allegations. They are seeking just over \$1 million in damages.

Credit scam victim nails Home Depot

Los Angeles Times

SANTA ANA, Calif. — Home Depot ignored Alan Sporn for two years, but a \$1 million court judgment got the company's attention.

The Laguna Hills businessman had his Social Security number stolen, which ended up in a dozen requests for Home Depot credit.

The fiasco hurt Sporn's credit rating, but the home improvement giant that prides itself in customer service brushed off his concerns — until he filed a lawsuit, won and then tried to collect the money from a company bank account.

Then, Home Depot decided to act. It appealed the case, but this week an appellate court here sided with Sporn.

On Friday, the victor and his lawyer were celebrating.

"I feel vindicated," Sporn, 52, said of his nearly 3-year effort to get Home Depot to respond.

In a brief written statement, the Atlanta-based company said that it was "disappointed in the decision ... and respectfully disagrees with the conclusions of the court."

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3,923.36	3,245.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,564.19	-18.49	-.51	-5.10	+24.59		
358.84	293.08	Dow Jones Utilities	356.20	-.49	-.14	+6.34	+30.30		
7,215.70	6,211.33	NYSE Composite	7,227.54	24.21	+.47	-.31	+5.30		
1,595.35	1,159.74	NASDAQ Index	1,497.77	+9.55	+0.65	+4.42	+20.44		
2,919.60	1,759.82	Russell 2000	2,061.34	-26.69	-1.25	-5.24	+.75		
1,217.50	1,050.72	S&P 500	1,200.75	-.59	-.79	-.32	+4.68		
667.38	548.29	S&P MidCap	662.09	-.49	-.75	-1.18	+10.29		
556.11	515.80	Russell 2000	621.14	-7.71	-1.21	-3.14	+5.33		
12,024.36	10,265.52	Wall Street 5000	11,841.36	-92.51	-7.78	-1.08	+5.24		

NYSE					AMEX					NASDAQ				
Most Active (\$1.00 or more)					Most Active (\$1.00 or more)					Most Active (\$1.00 or more)				
Name	Vol	(00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol	(00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol	(00)	Last	Chg
Lucint	389,616	2.25	-.09	-3.9P	50880	120.23	-.56	Nasdaq100	11,917	97.47	-.31			
Alcatel	263,113	25.86	+.11	SmithP	294,519	33.35	-.51	2500	1,002.56	1.88	-.11			
HomeDep	230,601	20.86	-.20	DISC000	85,099	125.86	-1.12	Intl	79,901	2.63	-.51			
Polysci	219,927	24.39	-.30	Chiquia	78,086	18.54	-.86	Microsoft	62,895	5.55	-.14			
ExxonMobil	187,786	94.13	-.35	DADA	57,081	107.72	-.71	SanDisk	48,271	4.15	-.38			
MEAC	179,447	11.09	+.35	SP500	51,003	41.14	-.56	Cisco	47,973	17.65	-.04			
EntireNet	172,945	15.56	-.17	GOOG	41,789	94.31	-1.43	Oracle	44,780	12.56	-.37			
TimeWar	169,896	18.05	-.05	Nature	39,892	55.35	-.21	Applied	44,603	17.33	-.17			
EPICor	169,651	12.89	+.46	DISP500	23,615	130.36	-.59	Silicon	38,859	5.99	-.85			
Yum!	165,639	12.18	-.51	2000	21,396	2.91	-.11	Apple	35,641	8.31	-.32			

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Armed Holdings	—	16	29.33	+.27	-.34	Fidelity Invest: Global	54.63	+.47	-.29		
Boring	1.80	23	51.66	-.26	-.27	Armed Century Inc: Global	28.70	-.26	-.27		
Comstar Systems	—	15	46.25	-.45	-.88	Fidelity Spartan: Global	42.36	-.34	-.7		
Engineered Sup	—	27	22.93	-.30	+.12	Putnam Funds: Global	13.46	-.11	-.1		
General Dynamics	1.44	17	105.98	-.45	+.12	Fidelity Invest: Global	16.14	-.17	-.4		
General Electric	—	28	21.80	-.13	-.13	Frank Temp: Frank T: Global	33.78	-.18	-.11		
Healthcare	—	32	61.75	-.57	+.45	AIM Investments: Global	23.29	-.21	-.5		
Harris Corp	—	48	64.08	-.79	+.48	Fidelity Invest: Global	11.36	-.47	-.1		
Illinois Signal	—	81	27.03	-.17	+.17	Fidelity Invest: Global	38.15	-.25	-.13		
L3 Communications	—	50	21.74	+.29	+.3	Fidelity Advan: T: Global	38.15	-.25	-.13		
Lockheed Martin	1.08	31	69.35	-.58	+.48	Fidelity Advan: T: Global	38.15	-.25	-.13		
Northrop	—	50	53.11	-.38	-.19	Scudder Funds: Global	21.74	-.27	-.9		
Raytheon	—	41	38.46	+.15	-.18	Putnam Funds: Global	8.46	-.32	-.1		
Rockwell Intl	—	66	23.99	-.98	+.03	AIM Investments: Global	12.83	-.18	-.3		
Sequa Corp	—	20	25.48	-.34	-.19	AIM Investments: Global	26.75	-.18	-.3		
Teledyne	—	14	25.36	-.31	+.15	Scudder Funds: Global	44.20	-.56	-.2		
United Technologies	1.40	18	75.23	-.11	+.17	Merill Lynch: Global	17.64	-.37	-.7		
	1.40	18	101.08	-.10	-.18	Scudder Funds: Global	15.71	-.17	-.12		

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Feb. 22)	103.00
South Korean won (Feb. 19)	999.00
Euro costs (Feb. 21)	\$1.3401
Dollar buys (Feb. 21)	\$0.7462
British pound (Feb. 21)	\$1.51
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
Brazilian real	1.51847
Canada (Dollar)	1.2316
Denmark (Krone)	5.7032
Egypt (Pound)	5.8136
Euro	\$1.3067/7653
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7996
Hungary (Forint)	165.93
Iceland (Krona)	61.795
Israel (Shekel)	4.3592
Japan (Yen)	105.64
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2919
Norway (Krone)	5.3478
Philippines (Peso)	54.69
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7590
Singapore (Dollar)	1.6367
South Korea (Won)	5.9076
Switzerland (Franc)	1.1829
Thailand (Baht)	38.54
Turkey (New Lira)	1.4045

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military bank's currency. Commercial rates are inter-bank rates provided for reference only in buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc	
Gold	\$427.10
Silver	\$7.413

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	2.50
Federal funds market rate	2.50
3-month bill	2.60
30-year bond	4.65
Source: The Associated Press, Bank of America	

Spell-check can be added to Outlook

Q. I do not have the spell feature on my Outlook Express. Can you help, please help?

— Jim Spinale @charter.net

A. First off, Mr. S., do you know that there is no spell-check software built into Outlook Express and that it gets its spell-check feature by borrowing that of a word processor like Microsoft Works or Microsoft Office? It would be nice if that is your problem, because there are inexpensive programs available that can add spell-checking to machines lacking the feature. Check out www.spellchecker.com/personal, which offers software for \$20 and permits free trials beforehand, or go to www.downloads.com and use "spell check" as a keyword to find the wealth of shareware for this feature.

Sadly, a significant number of users have encountered a problem with one of the Windows files that is used to do the checks. It is called csap31.dll and if you have Works or an equivalent program then you need to replace it. This is complex but doable.

Fire up Internet Explorer and

type in this at the address: C:\Program Files\Microsoft Shared\Proof. This takes you to your PC's Proofing directory, which is used for spell checks, grammar checks and other supervisory jobs. If the csap31.dll file is there, delete it.

Then you need make a fresh copy of the file using the Expand tool. Click on Start and then type msconfig and click OK.

In the next display, click on Expand File. In the box that comes up you are asked for the name of the file to restore so type csap31.dll and then in the Restore From box, type in C:\Windows\i386, which is where these files are kept. In some cases the master file is on the supplied Windows CD; if so, type in the drive letter for the CD drive and i386.

Finally, point the Expand tool to the Proof folder mentioned above and click the Expand button. This will restore spell-checking in a matter of seconds.

Contact Jim Coates via e-mail at jcoates@tribune.com or by mail at the Chicago Tribune, Room 400, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago IL 60611. Questions can be answered only through this column. Add your point of view at www.chicagotribune.com/askjim.



Jim Coates

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Faded banner may be Philippines' first flag

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Tacked inside a wooden display case in a rarely visited corner of the San Francisco War Memorial could be the answer to one of the great mysteries of Philippine history: What happened to the first flag?

The Philippines' founding president, Emilio Aguinaldo, famously unfurled the original "Stars and Sun" flag when he declared his nation's independence from Spain in 1898, but the banner disappeared during the Philippine-American War that followed.

Hanging by two thumbtacks in the building's trophy room is a faded red, white and blue banner that just might be that missing icon — a banner Filipinos compare to the "Stars and Stripes" flag Betsy Ross made during the U.S. war of independence.

Rudy Asercion, a member of the American Legion's War Memorial Commission, noticed the artifact in the usually locked trophy room last year. He now believes U.S. Gen. Frederick Funston captured the flag during the Philippine-American War and brought it back to San Francisco in 1902.

The National Historical Institute in Manila dispatched a representative to inspect the flag, and later sent a letter to the commission saying the banner was "most likely authentic."

If it proves to be authentic, the Philippine government would very much like to see the flag returned, and there appear to be few objections in San Francisco, where the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution this month urging the American Legion to investigate its history.



American Legion War Memorial Commissioner Rudy Asercion shows a flag at the War Memorial Building in San Francisco. He believes it is the original "Stars and Sun" flag unfurled when the Philippines declared independence in 1898.

AP

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FACES



The Berlinale film festival shows a scene featuring Will Smith, left, and Kevin James of the movie "Hitch," directed by Andy Tennant. The U.S. production was screened during the competition of the International Film Festival Berlinale in Berlin on Friday.

James steals limelight

Actor improvises moves in new flick

By CHRIS HEWITT

Knight Ridder Newsletters

Usher has crunking, Michael Jackson has the moonwalk and Kevin James has the Q-Tip.

James is in "Hitch," which is about a romance coach for the dateless played by Will Smith.

But, for about five minutes, "Hitch" is hijacked by the James Klutzatronic Dance Machine.

His character demonstrates his pathetic dance moves for Smith, including an ear-fingering gesture called the Q-Tip and a hand-rubbing motion called Starting the Fire.

All are rejected.

"You just look at me, and you know I can throw it down, right? Me and getting the ladies — you can see how smooth I am," jokes James, star of TV's "The King of Queens," calling from a New York hotel.

"Those are pretty much my own moves, which is pretty sad. That was my calling card with the ladies, back in the day. That was what I had to work with — that out-of-control thing, sort of like onions falling out of a bag."

Smith and James improvised the dance scene (they did lots of stuff that's not in the movie but could be on the DVD), something James says many stars wouldn't go for.

"Some actors would see another supporting actor getting laughs and would shut it

down immediately," says James, declining to name names. "But Will encouraged it." The two were friends first, after a "Queens" writer introduced them and they played golf.

Smith said they should work together; James figured it was one of those when-pigs-fly situations. But Smith called and James said yes to a tiny role that, over the course of a movie's worth of improvised scenes, ended up being not-so-tiny.

James was thrilled because, despite six years on a hit sitcom, the movie offers were not exactly pouring in.

They weren't exactly even trickling in.

"It's hard to knock down doors, even if you've been on a TV show for a while," says James. "It's such a difficult transition to make, as you can tell from all the TV actors who tried and didn't make it in movies."

When James heard from Smith, he had just lost the lead in the next film from Mike Judge, who wrote and directed "Office Space."

At the time, he was bummed not to get the gig. Now, he's thrilled he wasn't chosen because it would have prevented him from doing "Hitch."

Speaking about his collaboration with Smith, James uses the playing-against-someone-who's-better-than-you-makes-you-better sports metaphor.

The difference is, when he says working with Smith is the comedy equivalent of

playing golf with Tiger Woods, James isn't speaking metaphorically.

He actually has played golf with Tiger Woods, and tips from Woods actually did make him better. Same goes for Smith, who helped him figure out the whole movie thing.

With "Hitch" heading into theaters Friday, "King of Queens" about to wrap shooting for the season and a couple of movies already completed (including a comedy that pairs him with mentor Ray Romano), James is looking at what's next. He's not sure what it'll be, but it's a good bet it will

find him playing a character unlike the ones in "Queens" and "Hitch," both of whom are lovable, self-deprecating klutzes.

"Rob Burnett, the producer of 'Letterman,' told me you watch a movie for two reasons. Either it's like a James Bond movie, where you see him do things you've never do, or it's a character who's a lot like you, so you relate to him," says James.

That's more what I've been doing, but, believe me, my agents and everybody are going, "We need to go in a different direction. Let's do something where Kevin is not the fat guy, tripping over his suitcase."

Even if James stays vertical for the entire film, don't expect him to be too suave.

"The way I look at it is when you expose yourself to America and beyond, like I do on 'King of Queens,' where the humiliating stuff is often part of what's funny or endearing about the character, I have no problem with that," says James. "It's good to show you have faults and you look like an idiot some of the time, because we all do."

Rock OK with Oscar's delay

First-time Oscar host Chris Rock, a comedian known for his frequent use of expletives, says the five-second decency delay on the ABC show's Feb. 27 telecast will be a welcome "safety net."

"I've been on TV and been funny not cursing," Rock says in an interview on CBS' "60 Minutes" newsmagazine, to air Sunday night.

"As far as content is concerned, I will talk about the movies. I'm not really worried about it. I'm sure ABC is more worried about it than me."

Gil Cates, the producer of the Oscar show, has expressed confidence in Rock, who suggested in a recent Entertainment Weekly magazine interview that no straight black men watch the telecast.

"[A time delay is] a safety net. You know, you're a trapeze artist ... you welcome the net," Rock says.

Rock also says that when he arrives on Oscar night, he may be traveling "small," without an entourage. The 39-year-old actor-comedian says that "with a posse, you're not letting the real world in. And if you don't let the real world in, you're not going to be funny."

He added: "Donald Trump rolls pretty small, you know."



Rock

New music director in London

Oleg Caetani, chief conductor of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, has been selected as the new music director for the English National Opera in London.

Caetani, who made his British debut at ENO in 2003, replaces outgoing music director Paul Daniel.

He will start work for the English opera in September 2006, for the start of the 2006-2007 season, the opera said Friday.

Life inside Windsor Castle

Britain's royal family has given a TV crew unprecedented access to life inside Windsor Castle for a documentary series about life in the royal household.

Buckingham Palace said Thursday that a team from production company RDF had been filming at the castle, west of London, for a year. The three-part series, tentatively titled, "Windsor," and due to be broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corp. next fall, includes an interview with Prince Philip and several scenes featuring Queen Elizabeth II.

A palace spokeswoman said Philip would speak about his role as a ranger for the castle's extensive grounds and parks.

Spears: Photos invade privacy

Britney Spears says the veil has been lifted on her honeymoon, and she's not happy.

Photos of Spears and her new husband, Kevin Federline, are on the cover of *Us Weekly* magazine under the headline: "Britney's Private Album!" Other pictures of the couple's October honeymoon in the Fiji Islands are displayed on five pages inside the magazine, on newsstands Friday.

"Kevin and I chose a resort location where we were promised absolute privacy and seclusion," the 23-year-old pop star says.

"Unfortunately, staff members took photographs of us, which we allowed them to take once we were assured they were being taken for our private use in a scrapbook they gave us as a souvenir."

"Other magazines, including Star, contacted us when presented with these photographs and refused to publish them," says Spears.

"Kevin and I thank those other magazines for respecting our rights of privacy." Stories and photo from The Associated Press

MONDAY EVENING / FEBRUARY 21, 2005

J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6	AFN-P	***ESPN News Pacific Report		60 Minutes (CC)		Without a Trace "Hanks and Handman" Malone thinks a missing delinquent money is a paranoid schizophrenic		Without a Trace "Life Rules" The team reports a vanished motivational speaker hiding lots of suspects (CC)	Pacific Report	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (CC)		Late Show With David Letterman (CC)
7	AFN-Alt	(5:46) Oprah Winfrey (3:58) Guiding Light (CC)		(1:17) General Hospital (CC)	Headline News	Judge Judy (CC)	Today (CC)			Aladdin (CC)		ChazZone A life size falls for Rudy
8	NEWS	Bulls and Bears Sports	Cavuto on Business (CC)	Forbes (CC)	Cashin In (CC)	Dataline NBC (CC)	Fox and Friends	Fox and Friends	Fox and Friends	American Morning		
9	SPORTS	(5:00) Sports			***Sports					***Sports		
10	SPEC	The Simpsons The Simpsons Movie The Simpsons Movie	Everybody Loves Raymond The Simpsons Movie	The Dead Zone "Looking Glass" Twins try to do Johnny (CC)	Law & Order: Maritime "A woman's life is bound rooting in the East River. (CC)	Monster House "70s Disco House" A 1970s disco-inspired theme.	Friends Rachel's Dating plans upset Ross, (CC)	Seinfeld The first 100 episodes. (Part 2 of 2) (CC)	Sinfeld The first 100 episodes. (Part 2 of 2) (CC)	Sinfeld Friends pilot giving a special look at the series.	Blind Date (CC)	
AFN-FM	Funny Orlando Family Oddities	Rugrats (CC)	Lizzie McGuire Taina	Little Mickey Taina	Smallville "Roed" (CC)	Boys Meets World Boys Meets World	The Cosby Show The Cosby Show	Home Improvement Home Improvement	Home Improvement Home Improvement	Touched by an Angel (CC)		
AFN-NO	Entertainment Tonight (CC)	*** 7:30 "Dawg" Barry Pepper Jesse James, Elizabeth Mitchell.		*** The House of the Spirits (1983, Drama, C-) Simone de Plessis, Forty-five years	*** Dark Blue (2002, Crime Drama) Kurt Russell, Brendan Gleeson, Scott Speedman. A convict detective takes a crisis of conscience. (R)	American Experience Thousands of American soldiers built the Alaska highway in 1942. (N) (CC)	Growing Up Gotti "Rocky" Purple boy wakes airline policy.	Growing Up Gotti "Rocky" Purple boy wakes airline policy.	Ceases 24/7 "Against All Odds" Causes several times champion boxing matches in one night. (CC)	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	
14	TMC	*** The Italian Job (2003, Suspense) Mark Wahlberg, Charlize Theron, Edward Norton. A thief and his crew plan to steal back their gold. PG-13 (CC)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Omaha" Chippendale Road, Gibson manor, the high quester of Edgar Allan Poe. (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Omaha" Chippendale Road, Gibson manor, the high quester of Edgar Allan Poe. (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Omaha" Chippendale Road, Gibson manor, the high quester of Edgar Allan Poe. (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Omaha" Chippendale Road, Gibson manor, the high quester of Edgar Allan Poe. (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Omaha" Chippendale Road, Gibson manor, the high quester of Edgar Allan Poe. (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Omaha" Chippendale Road, Gibson manor, the high quester of Edgar Allan Poe. (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Omaha" Chippendale Road, Gibson manor, the high quester of Edgar Allan Poe. (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Omaha" Chippendale Road, Gibson manor, the high quester of Edgar Allan Poe. (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Omaha" Chippendale Road, Gibson manor, the high quester of Edgar Allan Poe. (N)
20	PBS	Dragon Tales Max Miles (CC)	Zoom "Cotton Ball Giant" (DVS)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Omaha" Chippendale Road, Gibson manor, the high quester of Edgar Allan Poe. (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Omaha" Chippendale Road, Gibson manor, the high quester of Edgar Allan Poe. (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Omaha" Chippendale Road, Gibson manor, the high quester of Edgar Allan Poe. (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Omaha" Chippendale Road, Gibson manor, the high quester of Edgar Allan Poe. (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Omaha" Chippendale Road, Gibson manor, the high quester of Edgar Allan Poe. (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Omaha" Chippendale Road, Gibson manor, the high quester of Edgar Allan Poe. (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Omaha" Chippendale Road, Gibson manor, the high quester of Edgar Allan Poe. (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Omaha" Chippendale Road, Gibson manor, the high quester of Edgar Allan Poe. (N)
25	SHOW	*** "What's Cooking?" (2000, Comedy-Drama) Alma Woodard, Joan Chen. Chicago. Four diverse families enjoy a slice of life at "Therapizing." PG-13 (CC)	City Confidential "How 'Haw' star David Singer's Alaskan and his wife are murdered. (CC)	City Confidential "How 'Haw' star David Singer's Alaskan and his wife are murdered. (CC)	City Confidential "How 'Haw' star David Singer's Alaskan and his wife are murdered. (CC)	City Confidential "How 'Haw' star David Singer's Alaskan and his wife are murdered. (CC)	City Confidential "How 'Haw' star David Singer's Alaskan and his wife are murdered. (CC)	City Confidential "How 'Haw' star David Singer's Alaskan and his wife are murdered. (CC)	City Confidential "How 'Haw' star David Singer's Alaskan and his wife are murdered. (CC)	City Confidential "How 'Haw' star David Singer's Alaskan and his wife are murdered. (CC)	City Confidential "How 'Haw' star David Singer's Alaskan and his wife are murdered. (CC)	City Confidential "How 'Haw' star David Singer's Alaskan and his wife are murdered. (CC)
26	AE	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced
29	TFC	(1:15) TV Patrol World	Tanging Ina	(0:5) Insider	The Correspondents	Kumikiting Kabuu Ayen	Mungitang Kabuu Ayen	Mungitang Kabuu Ayen	Mungitang Kabuu Ayen	Mungitang Kabuu Ayen	Mungitang Kabuu Ayen	Mungitang Kabuu Ayen
30	CNN-I	CNN Presents: Classroom Edition Mariano Open - Final Show	CNN Daybreak	CNN Presents: Classroom Edition Mariano Open - Final Show	CNN Daybreak	CNN Presents: Classroom Edition Mariano Open - Final Show	CNN Daybreak	CNN Presents: Classroom Edition Mariano Open - Final Show	CNN Daybreak	CNN Presents: Classroom Edition Mariano Open - Final Show	CNN Daybreak	CNN Presents: Classroom Edition Mariano Open - Final Show
31	GOLF	(6:30) European Golf Carlsberg	*** Golf Central From the Pros	*** Golf Central From the Pros	*** Golf Central From the Pros	*** Golf Central From the Pros	*** Golf Central From the Pros	*** Golf Central From the Pros	*** Golf Central From the Pros	*** Golf Central From the Pros	*** Golf Central From the Pros	*** Golf Central From the Pros
32	TLC	Plastic Surgery Beverly Hills "Empire of Benetia" Dr. Hande's employees lose free airline space	Plastic Surgery Beverly Hills "Empire of Benetia" Dr. Hande's employees lose free airline space	Plastic Surgery Beverly Hills "Empire of Benetia" Dr. Hande's employees lose free airline space	Plastic Surgery Beverly Hills "Empire of Benetia" Dr. Hande's employees lose free airline space	Plastic Surgery Beverly Hills "Empire of Benetia" Dr. Hande's employees lose free airline space	Plastic Surgery Beverly Hills "Empire of Benetia" Dr. Hande's employees lose free airline space	Plastic Surgery Beverly Hills "Empire of Benetia" Dr. Hande's employees lose free airline space	Plastic Surgery Beverly Hills "Empire of Benetia" Dr. Hande's employees lose free airline space	Plastic Surgery Beverly Hills "Empire of Benetia" Dr. Hande's employees lose free airline space	Plastic Surgery Beverly Hills "Empire of Benetia" Dr. Hande's employees lose free airline space	Plastic Surgery Beverly Hills "Empire of Benetia" Dr. Hande's employees lose free airline space
34	TOON	Powerpuff Girls Dexter's Laboratory	Powerpuff Girls Dexter's Laboratory	Powerpuff Girls Dexter's Laboratory	Powerpuff Girls Dexter's Laboratory	Powerpuff Girls Dexter's Laboratory	Powerpuff Girls Dexter's Laboratory	Powerpuff Girls Dexter's Laboratory	Powerpuff Girls Dexter's Laboratory	Powerpuff Girls Dexter's Laboratory	Powerpuff Girls Dexter's Laboratory	Powerpuff Girls Dexter's Laboratory
35	ANPL	Who Gets the Dog? Napoleon (Shi Tzu mix. (N)	Who Gets the Dog? Napoleon (Shi Tzu mix. (N)	Who Gets the Dog? Napoleon (Shi Tzu mix. (N)	Who Gets the Dog? Napoleon (Shi Tzu mix. (N)	Who Gets the Dog? Napoleon (Shi Tzu mix. (N)	Who Gets the Dog? Napoleon (Shi Tzu mix. (N)	Who Gets the Dog? Napoleon (Shi Tzu mix. (N)	Who Gets the Dog? Napoleon (Shi Tzu mix. (N)	Who Gets the Dog? Napoleon (Shi Tzu mix. (N)	Who Gets the Dog? Napoleon (Shi Tzu mix. (N)	Who Gets the Dog? Napoleon (Shi Tzu mix. (N)
36	COM	(1:30) Bill Engvall: "Honey Your Sign Is Back"	(1:30) Bill Engvall: "Honey Your Sign Is Back"	(1:30) Bill Engvall: "Honey Your Sign Is Back"	(1:30) Bill Engvall: "Honey Your Sign Is Back"	(1:30) Bill Engvall: "Honey Your Sign Is Back"	(1:30) Bill Engvall: "Honey Your Sign Is Back"	(1:30) Bill Engvall: "Honey Your Sign Is Back"	(1:30) Bill Engvall: "Honey Your Sign Is Back"	(1:30) Bill Engvall: "Honey Your Sign Is Back"	(1:30) Bill Engvall: "Honey Your Sign Is Back"	(1:30) Bill Engvall: "Honey Your Sign Is Back"
40	NGC-A	Planet Wild Circus: Wild 	Planet Wild Circus: Wild 	Planet Wild Circus: Wild 	Planet Wild Circus: Wild 	Planet Wild Circus: Wild 	Planet Wild Circus: Wild 	Planet Wild Circus: Wild 	Planet Wild Circus: Wild 	Planet Wild Circus: Wild 	Planet Wild Circus: Wild 	Planet Wild Circus: Wild
42	SPE	***WWE Raw Scheduled: Triple H battles Edge from Japan. (CC)		***WWE Raw Scheduled: Triple H battles Edge from Japan. (CC)		***WWE Raw Scheduled: Triple H battles Edge from Japan. (CC)		***WWE Raw Scheduled: Triple H battles Edge from Japan. (CC)		***WWE Raw Scheduled: Triple H battles Edge from Japan. (CC)		***WWE Raw Scheduled: Triple H battles Edge from Japan. (CC)
43	FOX	That '70s Show Kellie Jones battles a sex trip. (CC)	That '70s Show Kellie Jones battles a sex trip. (CC)	The Simpsons Lisa experiences her first crush.	Seinfeld Jerry en- joins a new ro- mance. (CC)	Trading Spouses: Meet Your New "Lumber Jack" (Part 2 of 2) (CC)	24 Day 4: 2:00-3:00p Jack alerts Heller that there is a terrorist CTU agent in their midst. (N)	News The top 10 live music artists.	News The top 10 live music artists.	News The top 10 live music artists.	News The top 10 live music artists.	News The top 10 live music artists.
44	BET	(1:30) *** "Life Richard" (2000, Bi- ography) Leno, Game Show	(1:30) *** "Life Richard" (2000, Bi- ography) Leno, Game Show	The Parkers The Parkers	BET Nightly News 10p & Park: BET's Top 10 Live With Smith. (N)	BET Nightly News 10p & Park: BET's Top 10 Live With Smith. (N)	BET Nightly News 10p & Park: BET's Top 10 Live With Smith. (N)	BET Nightly News 10p & Park: BET's Top 10 Live With Smith. (N)	BET Nightly News 10p & Park: BET's Top 10 Live With Smith. (N)	BET Nightly News 10p & Park: BET's Top 10 Live With Smith. (N)	BET Nightly News 10p & Park: BET's Top 10 Live With Smith. (N)	BET Nightly News 10p & Park: BET's Top 10 Live With Smith. (N)
46	COURT	NYPD Blue A woman tempts late wife's ultimate prize. McDowell gets a partner. (CC)	NYPD Blue A woman tempts late wife's ultimate prize. McDowell gets a partner. (CC)	Cops A woman who claims she's a partner. (CC)	Cops High-speed chases and de- fensive. (CC)	The Investigators "Prescription for Mur- der" Suspect blames medication after beating a woman to death. (CC)	Forensic Files Forensic Files	Forensic Files Forensic Files	Psychic De- tectives "Buttermilk Fair" (CC)	Psychic De- tectives "Buttermilk Fair" (CC)	Psychic De- tectives "Buttermilk Fair" (CC)	Psychic De- tectives "Buttermilk Fair" (CC)
48	STR-1D	The Simpsons The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Focus Star News Focus	Friends (CC)	American Idol American Idol	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	The Casino (CC)	The Casino (CC)	Friends (CC)	That '70s Show (CC)
50	LIFE	Chelsea Hobb's Premiere (2005, Drama) Gail O'Grady, Grant Show. A mother seeks the single. Her ex-lover's return throws a woman's life into turmoil.	Chelsea Hobb's Premiere (2005, Drama) Gail O'Grady, Grant Show. A mother seeks the single. Her ex-lover's return throws a woman's life into turmoil.	Chelsea Hobb's Premiere (2005, Drama) Gail O'Grady, Grant Show. A mother seeks the single. Her ex-lover's return throws a woman's life into turmoil.	Chelsea Hobb's Premiere (2005, Drama) Gail O'Grady, Grant Show. A mother seeks the single. Her ex-lover's return throws a woman's life into turmoil.	Chelsea Hobb's Premiere (2005, Drama) Gail O'Grady, Grant Show. A mother seeks the single. Her ex-lover's return throws a woman's life into turmoil.	Chelsea Hobb's Premiere (2005, Drama) Gail O'Grady, Grant Show. A mother seeks the single. Her ex-lover's return throws a woman's life into turmoil.	Chelsea Hobb's Premiere (2005, Drama) Gail O'Grady, Grant Show. A mother seeks the single. Her ex-lover's return throws a woman's life into turmoil.	Chelsea Hobb's Premiere (2005, Drama) Gail O'Grady, Grant Show. A mother seeks the single. Her ex-lover's return throws a woman's life into turmoil.	Chelsea Hobb's Premiere (2005, Drama) Gail O'Grady, Grant Show. A mother seeks the single. Her ex-lover's return throws a woman's life into turmoil.	Chelsea Hobb's Premiere (2005, Drama) Gail O'Grady, Grant Show. A mother seeks the single. Her ex-lover's return throws a woman's life into turmoil.	Chelsea Hobb's Premiere (2005, Drama) Gail O'Grady, Grant Show. A mother seeks the single. Her ex-lover's return throws a woman's life into turmoil.
51	ABC-FM	Whose Line Is It Anyways? (CC)	Whose Line Is It Anyways? (CC)	Whose Line Is It Anyways? "Bar- ney" (CC)	Whose Line Is It Anyways? "Que- sada" (CC)	The 700 Club Bill Horan talks about relief efforts in Southeast Asia. (N)	America's Funniest Home Videos America's Funniest Home Videos	America's Funniest Home Videos America's Funniest Home Videos	Guthy-Renker.com Guthy-Renker.com	Pad Paid Pad Paid	Pad Paid Pad Paid	Pad Paid Pad Paid
53	HIST	Digging for the Truth "Hunt for the Lost Ark of the Covenant." (CC)	Digging for the Truth "Hunt for the Lost Ark of the Covenant." (CC)	Deep Sea Detectives "Secret Underwa- ter Caves" Explorers find a cache of Mycenaean artifacts in a Maelstrom. (CC)	Deep Sea Detectives "Secret Underwa- ter Caves" Explorers find a cache of Mycenaean artifacts in a Maelstrom. (CC)	The X Factor How the Vietnam War affected social change and sexual be- havior. (CC)	UFO Files Delving into the history of the alien abduction phenomenon. (CC)	UFO Files Delving into the history of the alien abduction phenomenon. (CC)	Digging for the Truth "Hunt for the Lost Ark of the Covenant." (CC)	Deep Sea Detectives "Secret Underwa- ter Caves" Explorers find a cache of Mycenaean artifacts in a Maelstrom. (CC)	Deep Sea Detectives "Secret Underwa- ter Caves" Explorers find a cache of Mycenaean artifacts in a Maelstrom. (CC)	Deep Sea Detectives "Secret Underwa- ter Caves" Explorers find a cache of Mycenaean artifacts in a Maelstrom. (CC)
57	STR-1M	(4:55) *** "Rocky" (1976) Sylvester Stallone. A boxer leaves the arena to make something of himself.	(4:55) *** "Rocky" (1976) Sylvester Stallone. A boxer leaves the arena to make something of himself.	(4:55) *** "Rocky" (1976) Sylvester Stallone. A boxer leaves the arena to make something of himself.	(4:55) *** "Rocky" (1976) Sylvester Stallone. A boxer leaves the arena to make something of himself.	(4:55) *** "Rocky" (1976) Sylvester Stallone. A boxer leaves the arena to make something of himself.	(4:55) *** "Rocky" (1976) Sylvester Stallone. A boxer leaves the arena to make something of himself.	(4:55) *** "Rocky" (1976) Sylvester Stallone. A boxer leaves the arena to make something of himself.	(4:55) *** "Rocky" (1976) Sylvester Stallone. A boxer leaves the arena to make something of himself.	(4:55) *** "Rocky" (1976) Sylvester Stallone. A boxer leaves the arena to make something of himself.	(4:55) *** "Rocky" (1976) Sylvester Stallone. A boxer leaves the arena to make something of himself.	(4:55) *** "Rocky" (1976) Sylvester Stallone. A boxer leaves the arena to make something of himself.
58	ADV 1	(5:30) Oz Trek Game for it	(5:30) Oz Trek Game for it	Total Adventure "Caving Country" (CC)	Adventure Challenge Adventure Challenge	Power Climbers journey to the peak of the world's fifth highest mountain.	Game for it Game for it	Game for it Game for it	Oz Trek Four men attempt to circum- navigate Australia by jet ski.	Oz Trek Four men attempt to circum- navigate Australia by jet ski.	Oz Trek Four men attempt to circum- navigate Australia by jet ski.	Oz Trek Four men attempt to circum- navigate Australia by jet ski.
59	MTV	MTV Cribz Lil Wayne.	MTV Cribz Kimberly White.	MTV Cribz (Seas- on 1) (CC)	The Osbournes The Osbournes	The Real World Shaundra consid- ering. (CC)	Room Raiders Room Raiders	My Super Sweet 16 My Super Sweet 16	My Super Sweet 16 My Super Sweet 16	My Super Sweet 16 My Super Sweet 16	My Super Sweet 16 My Super Sweet 16	My Super Sweet 16 My Super Sweet 16
60	NICK	U-Rick Rugrats (CC)	The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron: The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron:	The Family Odd- Parents (CC)	SpongeBob SpongeBob	Drake & Josh Drake & Josh	Full House Jr. Full House Jr.	Full House Jr. Full House Jr.	The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air (CC)	The Cosby Show The Cosby Show	Roseanne Dan's 15-year-old secret husband. (CC)	Murphy Brown Murphy Brown

JAPAN TV

Morning 10:25 Korean Drama: SangDoo Let's Go To School (8/30) Afternoon 12:30 <i>City of Crime</i> 1:30 N.Y. Movie (9/97): Recall (2/20/12) 5:50 News (6) Evening 7:50 News (1) 10:00 News (1) 10:00 Nikita (4/2) 1:55 Japan Pro Boxing (6) 2:43 Star Trek: DS9 (6)	With Western Conference 1:30 What's On Asia (7) 2:15 ABC News 3:15 CNN News 4:15 World News Hour 5:15 Asian News Evening 6:15 CNN News 7:15 News Today Asia 8:15 News Today: World 9:15 Economic News 10:15 Documentary: Drug In South America (4) 11:15 NBA: All Star 2005 - Eastern Conference 12:15 What's On Asia (7) 1:15 World News Hour 2:15 Asian News 3:52 World Amazing Sports
JAPAN TV-BS7	
Morning 6:00 PGA Golf: Nissan Open - Final Round	

4:15 Asian News
5:15 World News Hour

JAPAN TV-BS11

Morning
10:00 Classical Music: Towada Lakeside Concert

Afternoon
3:00 U.S. Movie (1950): September Affair (1:50)

Evening
7:00 NHK News
7:45 U.S. Movie (1995): Apollo 13 (2:25)
10:10 TV Series: ER IX (r)
12:00 British Movie (1957): The Bridge on the River Kwai (2:45)

WOWOW

Morning

15 Oswald #36
20 U.S. Movie (1959): Some Like It Hot (2:05)
afternoon
2:00 TV Series: Third Watch
2:00 U.S. Movie (2000): Highlander: Endgame (1:45)
3:00 U.S. Movie (2003): X2 (2:20)
3:30 Oswald #36
evening
4:00 Spanish Soccer Liga Espanola
5:00 U.S. Movie (1973): Paper Moon (1:48)
6:00 U.S. Movie (1994): Speed (2:00)
7:00 Spanish Soccer Liga Espanola
8:00 Jazz File #1: MT. Fuji Jazz Festival 2004
9:00 Jazz File #2: MT. Fuji Jazz Festival 2004
MTV
morning
10:00 Wake Up!
11:00 M Size Friday

8:00 Top Choice
10:00 Pure Music
11:00 Top Choice
Afternoon
12:00 Rocks
1:00 Classic
1:30 Top Choice
2:00 Pure Music
3:00 Top Choice
4:30 Winter Style in Kantatsu
5:00 Music Download Chart Top 10
Evening
6:00 M Size Monday
7:00 U.S. Top 20 with Super Dry
9:00 i-Catch
9:30 Top Choice
10:00 Rocks
11:00 VH1 Inside Track Concert
12:00 Classic 90's
1:00 M Size Monday
2:00 Making the Video: Exhibit
2:30 Check the Rhyme
3:00 Fresh
3:30 After Hours

OPINION

States smart to power all bases with BRAC

Politics aren't supposed to factor into the equation used to determine whether a military base should remain open or be closed in the coming round of reductions and realignments.

J.R. Labbe Donald Rumsfeld said that the 2005 base realignment and closure, or BRAC, process "should be the means by which we reconfigure our current infrastructure into one in which operational capacity maximizes both warfighting capability and efficiency."

Translation: If the facility adequately and effectively supports the military of the 21st century, it stays.

"America simply cannot do military transformation without BRAC," said Kenneth Beeks, vice president of policy for Business Executives for National Security. "The Department of Defense is not a jobs program. It is not the job of the Defense Department to provide employment for Americans; it is to protect America so we can find other jobs."

Yet elected officials from unpaid city mayors to high-profile governors and U.S. senators are investing political capital and lots of money into efforts to keep their local bases from ending up in the crosshairs of the BRAC Commission specifically because they are jobs programs in their communities.

At least four lists are circulating on the Internet naming bases that could be targeted for closure under the BRAC process in 2005, the first time the Pentagon has undergone this exercise in a decade.

Theoretically, every one of those Internet lists is accurate because every military facility in the country is supposed to be up for review.

The 2005 process aims to eliminate nearly 25 percent of the military's infrastructure. The 2005 closures are expected to exceed all the reductions in the four previous rounds of consolidation combined.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2002, which authorized this generation of closures, requires the Pentagon to "consider all military installations within the United States equally without regard to whether the installation has been previously considered for closure or realignment by the department."

"Understandably, many of our local community partners will have great concerns over BRAC 2005," wrote then-Secretary of the Army Thomas White in a December 2002 letter to his top brass. "We must avoid creating an expectation in the local communities that any action or group of actions would preclude an installation from being considered for realignment."

Secretary of the Navy Gordon England issued a similar caution a month earlier in a letter to his command, calling for "every Army and Marine Corps installation [to] be treated equally and fairly."

Yet here we are, two years later, and BRAC has become a full-employment act for high-priced lobbyists and retired generals who profess to be able to influence a process that, according to Christopher Hellman, military policy analyst for the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, was "specifically designed to insulate decision makers from lobbyists."

How much money are we talking about? The state of Florida is paying \$500,000 a month for a rent-in-scholar named Robert Natter and a lobbying firm to spearhead the Sunshine State's BRAC efforts, reports the Jacksonville Business Journal.

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has earmarked \$500,000 to advise communities on how to tell the Pentagon why it should keep all 62 of the Golden State's

military installations.

Separately, the Base Regional Alliance Committee in Yuba County, Calif., has raised more than \$100,000 to hire lobbyists to fight for Beale Air Force Base, which houses a U-2 intelligence squadron.

Texas voters approved a \$250 million bond program in 2003 to help the Lone Star State retain its military installations. Gov. Rick Perry's Web site reports that Texas gets a \$33.8 billion direct impact from its 18 military bases and other defense-related spending. In addition, the state benefits from a \$7.4 billion indirect impact — from the extra civilian jobs and spending generated by the military presence in Texas communities.

San Antonio business leaders have raised \$750,000 for a push to keep their local bases open, reports the San Antonio Express-News. San Antonio has reason to persevere: The Army's Fort San Houston and Brooks Air Force Base both are on the Internet lists of likely closure candidates.

To compound the sweat factor, Brooks, a small nonprofit research base, was on the 1997 BRAC list but dodged the shutters when nearby Kelly Air Logistics Center was closed instead.

But the communities' money may be ill spent.

"It's a waste of money," said Jack Spencer, senior policy analyst for Defense and National Security in the Kathryn and Shelby Coon Civic Institute for International Studies at The Heritage Foundation.

"A community would be far better off in spending that money to hire someone to help develop a plan in case the base is closed."

Business Executives for National Security's Beeks, a former naval officer, agrees. "It's money that could be better spent trying to prepare for life after BRAC," Beeks said. "If they are hellbent on doing this, mostly for political reasons. They can't be seen to. Politically they have to make a run at trying to save the base if they want to continue as mayor or city manager or whatever the position may be."

Alas, all decisions that germinate inside the Beltway are fertilized by politics, the lobbyist says. If one elected official is going to spend a little enrichment on the process, the other can't be expected to just stand by and watch.

That may explain Perry's surprise lobbying foray to the Pentagon in December. Without notifying or inviting Texas congressional lawmakers to join him, Perry dropped in on top defense officials Dec. 4 to boost the state's chances in the coming round of base closings.

At minimum one can give Perry props for doing his own talking and not hiring outside lobbyists to make his pitch. Perhaps it's more accurate to commend Perry for firing the outside lobbyist that once was hired to promote Texas interests on Capitol Hill.

That lobbyist was former House Majority Leader Dick Armey — oddly enough, the author of the base closing process

2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission deadlines

March 15: The final list of nine commission members submitted by the president and congressional leaders goes to the Senate for consideration and confirmation. Three members are nominated by the president, two each are suggested by the speaker of the House and the Senate majority leader, with one each from the House and Senate minority leaders.

May 16: Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld will submit to the BRAC Commission a list of bases that the department has selected for closure or realignment.

By Sept. 8: The BRAC Commission reports to the president on its recommendations.

By Sept. 23: The president approves or disapproves the list. The president cannot unilaterally make changes to the BRAC Commission's list.

If President Bush approves the list, the decision takes effect 45 legislative days after it is submitted to Congress. To change the list, each chamber must adopt and the president must sign a joint resolution of disapproval.

If Bush disapproves of the list, the BRAC Commission has until Oct. 20 to submit a revision. The president then would have until Nov. 7 to approve the list.

If Bush sends a second list to Congress, the same rules apply: The recommendations become law 45 days after the president sends the list to Congress unless both chambers pass and Bush signs a resolution of disapproval.

when he was still in Congress.

Army's firm, Piper Rudnick LLP, had a \$150,000-a-month contract with the state until Perry found out it also had a \$50,000-a-month contract to represent Florida on base closing issues.

"Remember what these lobbyists are going to do," Spencer said. "They come around to communities and say, 'Your base is going to be closed unless you pay me to represent you.' That will or won't happen regardless of what the lobbyist does. Of course, if it's not closed, the lobbyist will take full credit for it."

"Hopefully, any particular base will be closed or remain open on its own merit," he said. "The commission will look at it purely from a national security perspective, on what the base brings to the nation's security."

Jobs, not national security, were on Texas lawmakers' minds when they introduced a bill this month that would let communities use taxes earmarked for economic development to enhance infrastructure around bases. Yet this job-protection effort may be too little, too late.

"The data are all in to support the closure decisions," Beeks said. "They are so far down that road that if you built a superhighway straight to the CO's door, this still couldn't influence the outcome of this decision."

State leaders would better serve their constituents at this point by focusing on improvements that will serve their communities post-BRAC.

Pause for collective gasp here. What many elected leaders have an almost impossible policy to recognize is that BRAC is not a guaranteed death knell for a community's economic health.

"The hardest thing to convince people of — and it only happens after they've been through the process — is that there is life after BRAC," said Beeks.

"It is a wrenching process but, if commu-

nities will come together and form reuse committees, the Defense Department will help with money and other money available through the Commerce Department."

"Economies become more diversified, stronger and more immune to cyclical ups and downs of defense budgets. They become 21st century economies rather than 20th century industry economy that grows up around a base," Beeks said.

Beeks cites K.J. Sawyer Air Force Base in Michigan's Upper Peninsula as a great example of how a much-condemned closure in 1995 turned into an economic development success story.

A state-of-the-art lumber mill began operating in the old weapons storage area in 1997. The Marquette County airport had moved to the site by 1999. A company that performs aircraft maintenance for American Eagle Airlines is located there.

By 2001, all of the property that had been owned by the Air Force at the old Strategic Air Command facility was transferred to the county, which identified the area as the Marquette County Renaissance Zone.

In April 2004, Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm announced \$350,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding to help B3 Computers develop a production facility that would employ 110 people at the former air base.

Granholm joined every other governor in a state with military facilities in appointing a brass-heavy task force that will fight to keep remaining bases off the BRAC list in 2005.

"BRAC isn't that 'five stages of death' thing, but it's close," said Beeks. "Right now, everyone is in denial. Politically, I don't see how a mayor or governor doesn't do it. Realistically, it's a waste of money."

"If only they could be strong enough to stand up and say: 'Let's work to see what we could do with this if the base is gone.'"

J.R. Labbe is a senior editorial writer and columnist for the Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Java costs in jail

MI LANSING — Inmates in Michigan's prisons will have to pay for their own caffeine fix next month.

In an effort to save \$250,000 this year, state officials are cutting off the supply of free coffee to inmates at state prisons and people in boot camps and correctional centers.

Corrections Department spokesman Russ Marlan said inmates can still buy instant coffee at prison stores, but he didn't know how much they charge. The cost-saving effort begins after March 1.

"We're looking at everything that can reduce costs without jeopardizing public safety," Marlan said Monday. "There is no nutritional value to coffee."

Coach's suicide warning

CO DENVER — A girls basketball coach apparently told family members just hours before his jailhouse suicide that he was planning to harm himself, but corrections staff never were alerted.

In a letter sent to the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, District Attorney Carol Chambers said family members presumably didn't think coach Rick Lopez would follow through on his threats.

Lopez was being held on 55 felony counts of sexually assaulting three of his female basketball players, two of whom allege they were younger than 15 when they first had intimate relations with the coach.

Grounded for ventilator

FL ST. PETERSBURG — The trip began like perhaps 20 others that Barrett said he had flown on US Airways.

Barrett and his nurse checked in three hours early at Tampa International Airport. A quadriplegic, Barrett told ticket agents he was traveling with a ventilator, he says, and they put a sticker on his shirt to make sure he was seated ahead of the crowd.

But before his flight left the gate Saturday, airline personnel said Barrett had to be carried off the plane. The airline decided that because his ventilator was a life-support device, it was too risky for him to fly.

This week, Florida Attorney General Charlie Crist wrote US Airways chief executive Bruce Lakefield that federal law bans airlines from refusing to transport people with disabilities. The airline said employees followed procedures developed to comply with the Air Carrier Access Act.

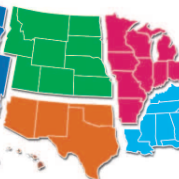
Barrett was on his way to Cleveland for surgery to let him breathe on his own.

Grizzly death

MN ST. PAUL, Minn. — A man accused of killing his long-time girlfriend with a claw hammer during an argument in their apartment was charged with intentional second-degree murder.

Clarence J. Dunn Sr., 49, called 911 Tuesday morning and reported that he had killed 42-year-old Cassandra Jane Koochek by hitting her in the head with a hammer, according to a criminal complaint.

Police who responded to the woman's apartment found Koochek lying on a bed with a blanket and pillow over her head. A



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

plastic bag also had been placed over her head.

Dunn was arrested and taken to a hospital where he was treated for self-inflicted cuts to his wrists.

Weight of eye gouging

CA A jury has convicted a San Francisco man of aggravated mayhem, torture and assault for gouging out his girlfriend's left eye.

The case gained notoriety when a police officer was killed in a car crash while trying to catch the defendant, Monte Hane, 32.

A jury found Hane guilty of beating Margie Holmes with a radio and a video recorder, then hacking at her back and thigh with a cleaver before ripping her eye from its socket on June 11, 2002.

Hane's defense was that he could not remember the incident because he had been on a drug binge.

Yale women's march

CT NEW HAVEN — More than 100 Yale University graduate students marched to the president's office Thursday to protest what they said is inequitable treatment of women at the Ivy League university.

Hane's defense was that he could not remember the incident because he had been on a drug binge.

The protesters also criticized President Richard Levin for not joining the presidents of Stanford, Princeton and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in denounc-



Squirrely situation

Two dogs stalk a squirrel along a street in Great Falls, Mont.

ing comments made last month by Harvard President Larry Summers. Summers said biological differences may help explain why more men than women excel in science, but has since apologized several times.

Weight bill dropped

GA ATLANTA — A Georgia lawmaker who sponsored a bill that would have required public schools to weigh students and list their body mass indices on their report cards says she's dropping the idea.

Rep. Stephanie Stuckey Benfield, D-Atlanta, said calls and e-mails to her office were running heavily against the proposal.

Benfield said she still hopes to do something to help with childhood obesity, "but not with this bill."

Among other things, critics said the bill would harm students' self-esteem. "That was certainly never my intent, but I'm sensitive to that," Benfield said.

Samurai sword slashing

TX ARLINGTON — A 16-year-old who slashed a classmate in the face with a samurai sword had been on campus more than an hour searching for several other students, police said.

A Lamar High School office worker noticed the freshman walking into the school about 6:50 a.m. Monday carrying an 18-inch sword in each hand. She called security guards on a radio and then dialed 911.

Shortly after the assault in a hallway, school security guards tackled the teen. Police arrived about a minute after the 911 call, according to police records.

The 14-year-old victim, whose name was not released, was treated at a hospital for a 2½-inch cut on his chin, police said. The suspect, whose name was not released, is being held on suspicion of attempted murder at Tarrant County's juvenile detention center. Police said they don't know a motive. The teen refused to talk with detectives after he appeared before a judge Monday morning.

Protester suit thrown out

NH CONCORD — A federal judge has thrown out the case of a Bedford man who was threatened with arrest when he dressed as a terrorist outside a polling place last fall.

On Election Day, Joseph Galibolis showed up at the polls wearing a black ski mask and olive-green ammunition holders and carrying a plastic squirt gun resembling an assault rifle and a John Kerry campaign sign.

By dressing as a terrorist campaigning for Kerry, Galibolis hoped to convince voters that President Bush's anti-terrorism policies were superior to the Democrats' proposals.

After several hours, police asked him to leave or face arrest, saying he was alarming voters and causing traffic problems.

Galibolis later sued Nashua police Sgt. John Fisher for violating his free-speech rights by ending his protest. His lawsuit sought \$1 per week until the 2008 presidential election.

Galibolis then sued in federal court, where a judge threw out the case Tuesday for jurisdictional reasons.



Big group hug

Spc. Edward Chadburn hugs his kids upon his return to family and friends in Salt Lake City. The 116th Engineering unit spent the last year serving in Iraq.



Fishy activity

Tery Price fishes for perch along the banks of Bayou Petit outside Houma, La.



Easily entertained

Kody Priesgen, 8, concentrates as he tries to hit snow chunks with a stick while playing outside after school in Mayville, WI.



High-flying ride

Jimmy Larson, a member of the Ansoil Snowmobile Racing team, takes a jump on a practice track in Aurora, Minn.



Ferocious history

Carl Jara, an exhibit artisan/technician at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, puts the finishing touches around the velociraptor display.



Pit stop

A flock of Canada geese rest at the Mabaska Wildlife Area west of Ames, near Boone county, Iowa.

Holy cheese?!

CA SAN FRANCISCO — The possibly miraculous grilled-cheese sandwich arrived in San Francisco this week, accompanied by bodyguards.

It will only be in the city through the weekend; the sandwich has prior commitments and cannot stay long.

"We're excited to have it," said Ian Ilias, manager of the Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum, which is hosting the sandwich during its visit.

The sandwich is said to bear the image of the Virgin Mary in its grill marks. It was cooked 10 years ago by a Florida woman, who sold it in November to an Internet casino for \$28,000. The casino took the sandwich on a nationwide tour, out of the goodness of its heart.

"People need to find spirituality these days," said Eric Amgar, the sandwich's advance man. "There's nothing wrong with helping them to do that."

Cop becomes suspect

MINN ST. PAUL — A Minneapolis police officer was jailed this week on suspicion of kidnapping and raping a woman he met at a health club while he was off duty.

David M. Hansen, 28, was arrested Wednesday evening at his home in St. Paul and is being held without bail.

Minneapolis Police Chief Bill McManus placed Hansen, who has been on the force about two years, on paid administrative leave once he learned of the allegations.

Mayo Clinic donation

AZ SCOTTSDALE — A local man whose wife died of cancer donated \$5 million to the Mayo Clinic to establish an endowment for research on the disease.

Officials said the gift from Mark Mazzarino, 89, was the largest ever earmarked for research at Mayo Clinic Scottsdale. The former oil company owner's wife, Shirley, died of cancer 45 years ago.

Laser-related arrest

WA LAKEWOOD — King County deputies arrested a 25-year-old man for allegedly shining a laser on jetliners arriving or leaving Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

The intense light caused no injury or damage. The man, who wasn't named pending possible indictment, could face nine felony charges, officials said.

The FBI and Federal Aviation Administration participated in the investigation.

Gambino phone bust

NY NEW YORK — Six reputed members of the Gambino crime family pleaded guilty to ringing up more than \$650 million in unauthorized charges on telephone customers' credit cards and phone bills.

The six, led by alleged Gambino captain Salvatore Locascio, pleaded guilty Monday before their trial was to begin on charges including money laundering and conspiracy to commit mail fraud.

They face sentences ranging from less than two years to 10 years in prison and they have agreed to forfeit millions of dollars

in proceeds from the scheme.

Women awarded \$1M

FL WEST PALM BEACH — Two women who were secretly videotaped under their desks at work were awarded \$1 million each in a lawsuit against their former employer.

A jury found Tuesday that Patti Kidder and Katherine Dean suffered emotional trauma when Ocean Financial Corp. managers and co-workers teased them about the video footage.

The women claimed they were harassed after a co-worker admitted in 1999 that he put a camera under their desks and sold the video to pornographic Web sites. Kidder said she was called "Patti porn star" and propositioned by a manager.

Man survives crash

CO MONTROSE — A man survived the crash of a single-engine plane, then spent more than 24 hours stranded in rugged terrain before rescuers found him.

The pilot wasn't injured when the single-engine Cessna 172 crashed Wednesday afternoon in powdery snow that was about 8 feet deep, said Civil Air Patrol volunteer Mark Young, who is also the Montrose County coroner.

The 58-year-old man, who was the only person onboard, survived freezing temperatures at the 10,000-foot altitude by digging a snow cave. He was hungry and dehydrated when rescuers found him Thursday evening.

Coyote attacks woman

MA BARNSTABLE — A Cape Cod woman who was bitten on her left hand is believed to be the first person ever attacked by a rabid coyote in Massachusetts, according to state wildlife officials.

Cindy Parker-Kelley was attacked by a 45-pound female coyote in her back yard Thursday when she went to check on her Norwegian elkhound, Dakota. Her husband, David Kelley, beat the coyote with a piece of lumber, and police later killed it.

The state's only other recorded attack on a human by a coyote also occurred on Cape Cod. A coyote snatched a 3-year-old child from a swing set in Sandwich in 1998, but his mother intervened and the boy was not badly injured. It's unknown if that coyote had rabies.

Animal abuser sentenced

VA MANASSAS — A woman convicted of animal cruelty after an emaciated pit bull was discovered eating the carcass of another dog in her backyard was sentenced Monday to two days in jail.

Karen Lee Morris, 37, also was barred from ever possessing another companion animal in Virginia as part of a related civil case.

City officials had sought a 10-day jail sentence.

Animal control officers found three pit bulls in the tiny backyard of Morris' townhouse in December, while she was away on a family trip. They saw a thin pit bull cannibalizing the carcass of another pit bull.

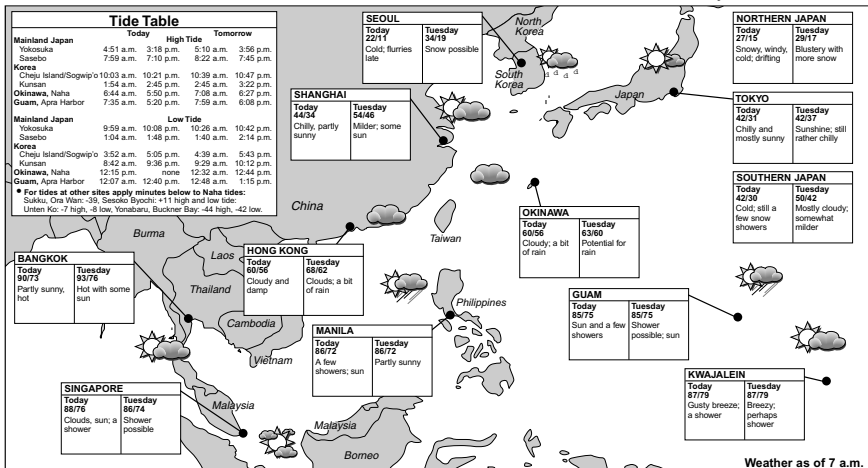
Judge Craig Johnston said the sentence was "the only way I can ensure that this doesn't happen again."

Stories and photos from wire services

The Pacific Forecast

AccuWeather.com

Forecasts and graphics, provided by AccuWeather.com ©2005



Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 52, low 38.
Thursday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 49, low 40.

KADENA

Wednesday: Showers, high 67, low 60.
Thursday: Thunderstorms, high 71, low 65.

SEOUL

Wednesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 32, low 19.
Thursday: Mostly cloudy, high 42, low 25.

MANILA

Wednesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 88, low 74.
Thursday: Partly sunny, high 90, low 74.

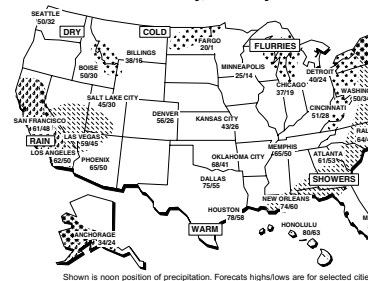
HAGATNA

Wednesday: Showers, high 79, low 75.
Thursday: Showers, high 87, low 77.

Saturday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	58/38	Los Angeles	62/52
Amarillo	68/43	Little Rock	54/48
Anchorage	34/24	Louisville	42/37
Asheville	53/24	Miami	77/63
Baltimore	35/20	Milwaukee	34/27
Birmingham	60/43	Nashville	48/40
Bismarck	17/10	New York	33/22
Boise	45/33	Omaha	41/40
Boston	27/16	Orlando	73/50
Brownsville	78/65	Philadelphia	34/22
Buffalo	27/16	Phoenix	64/52
Burlington	19/4	Pittsburgh	32/21
Charleston, SC	63/40	Portland, OR	52/34
Charlotte	57/40	Portland, ME	22/14
Cleveland	31/21	Salt Lake City	46/35
Columbus, OH	35/24	St. Louis	44/37
Duluth	17/6	San Antonio	65/61
El Paso	69/47	San Diego	64/56
Fort Worth	27/13	San Jose	84/70
Helena	37/14	Tampa	76/54
Indianapolis	40/31	Tulsa	55/53
Jacksonville	66/43	Washington, DC	38/26
Kansas City	47/44	Wichita	53/47

Monday, February 21



U.S. Extended Forecast

A winter storm will spread snow, sleet and rain into the Great Lakes and Northeast on Monday, with significant snowfall accumulations possible along the I-95 corridor. A developing disturbance along a cold front stretching through the Tennessee Valley will contribute to heavy rain and a few thunderstorms moving from Arkansas and Louisiana westward into the Carolinas later in the day. Much of the East Coast will clear out on Tuesday, but the West will remain unsettled. Some of the snow and rain will spread eastward into the Rockies. Meanwhile, a disturbance over Mexico will move northeastward, crossing the Rio Grande River and moving into Texas and Louisiana by Tuesday evening.

Monday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	90/73	Iwakuni	39/27
Beijing	32/22	Kadena AB	60/56
Camp Casey	26/16	Kansan AB	31/25
Christchurch	67/53	Kwajalein	87/73
Diego Garcia	88/78	Manila	86/72
Hagatna	85/75	Misawa AB	32/20
Hanoi	68/60	Okinawa	28/18
Hong Kong	80/66	Perth	81/56
Honolulu	80/63	Pusan	35/25

Monday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	91/72	Budapest	34/31	Kabul	45/25
Athens	56/49	Buenos Aires	91/70	Kiev	30/25
Auckland	74/59	Cairo	74/51	Kuwait	77/55
Baghdad	66/45	Cancun	94/68	London	39/34
Barbados	86/68	Cape Town	82/60	Madrid	43/30
Barcelona	50/34	Geneva	31/30	Mexico City	72/45
Berlin	29/16	Interstate	49/38	Montreal	20/13
Bermuda	59/50	Jerusalem	61/43	Mogadishu	30/24
Brussels	35/21	Johannesburg	72/55	Moscow	16/5
				Warsaw	31/24



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Austrians sweep women's downhill; American places fourth

The Associated Press

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany — Michael Walchofer won his second World Cup downhill race in two days, leading a 1-2-3 Austrian sweep ahead of Bode Miller on Saturday and closing in on the discipline title.

Walchofer easily won Friday's downhill and again tamed the Kitzbüheler course, finishing in 1 minute, 56.50 seconds for his third consecutive World Cup downhill victory overall.

"It was bumper and more difficult today," Walchofer said. "But I did it and it is really satisfying after all the troubles I've had here in the past."

Walchofer has finally shaken a long, troublesome trend of crashing on the final turn here. In previous races, he'd crashed four consecutive times on the tricky FIS-Schneise, then last season lost a healthy advantage after crashing onto his backside in the turn and finished 16th.

"It looks like I finally learned to ski that turn," Walchofer said.

Teammate Mario Scheiber was second Saturday (1:56.59) for his first World Cup downhill top three finish. Card reigning Olympic champion Fritz Strobl was third (1:56.95).

World downhill champion Miller finished one spot off the podium with a time of 1:57.03 and U.S. teammate Daron Rahiv was fifth.

Sports briefs

"I made two mistakes, one that cost me almost a second," said Miller, who led after the first two intervals in Friday's downhill but lost time after going wide coming out of the bothersome FIS-Schneise turn and settled for third.

"The way I've been skiing these days, it's pretty disappointing to be making those kinds of mistakes. It's pretty frustrating."

Miller increased his advantage over Austria's Benjamin Raich in the overall World Cup standings. The American has 1,203 points, 167 ahead of Raich, who finished 17th in Saturday's race.

Dorfmeister leads Austria's 1-2 finish in women's super-G

ARE, Sweden — Michaela Dorfmeister and Alexandra Meissnitzer gave Austria the top two spots in a wind-swept super-G race Saturday, while world champion and defending World Cup overall champ Anja Paerson finished fifth before her home fans.

Dorfmeister skied almost flawlessly down the 1,891-meter Olympia course, crossing in 1 minute, 07.53 seconds. It was her second super-G victory of the season.

Meissnitzer was 0.45 behind and Lucia Recchia of Italy took third, 0.52 back.

"It was a good race, but not perfect," Dorfmeister said. "But when you ski fast you can make mistakes. I'm surprised the victory margin was so big, because the course is not long. It wasn't easy because the wind was difficult at the top."

Dorfmeister's 19th career World Cup victory moved her within two points of teammate Renate Goetsch in the super-G standings.

Lindsay Kilow of the United States, seventh in Saturday's race, is third in the standings with 326 points.

Janica Kostelic of Croatia, who won three titles in the world championships, was 0.54 off Dorfmeister's pace and finished fourth, enough to overtake Finland's Tanja Poutiainen for the overall World Cup lead. Kostelic has 928 points; Poutiainen has 909.

Raid rescues Urbina's mother from abductors in Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela — Venezuelan police stormed a mountain camp and rescued the mother of Detroit Tigers pitcher Ugoeth Urbina from kidnappers who demanded \$6 million in ransom, ending an ordeal that lasted more than five months.

The raid Friday left at least one of the abductors dead, but 54-year-old Maura Villareal was unharmed, police said.

Urbina was reunited with his

mother late Friday at a police station in Caracas, where he hurriedly slipped past reporters to go inside, saying only, "I'm happy. Excuse me, but now I just want to see her."

Officers from a special anti-kidnapping unit rescued Villareal hours earlier from a remote mountainous area in the southern state of Bolivar, said Joel Rengifo, the chief officer in the division.

It was a clean and well-planned operation," said Rengifo, who added that Villareal was unharmed.

The major league's mother, who had been missing since she was kidnapped from her home Sept. 1, told reporters the experience was "unexpected — I never thought they would kidnap me."

"You can't say they treated me either well or poorly. The most hurtful thing was having to hear them say that my son didn't love me because he didn't pay," Villareal said.

Prosecutors toughen charges against former Iowa star

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Prosecutors filed tougher charges Friday against a former Iowa basketball player Pierre Pierce in connection with an alleged assault on his former girlfriend last month.

The new charges, which supersede six previous counts filed last year, include two counts of first-degree burglary, one count

of assault with intent to commit sexual assault and one count of fourth-degree criminal mischief.

Police say Pierce, 21, choked his former girlfriend in her townhouse, threatened her with a knife and stripped her after an argument over her new boyfriend. Pierce also is accused of causing damage to her apartment and stealing a laptop and camera.

The amended charges against Pierce are charged with three felonies, instead of one, and could face up to 56 years in jail if convicted. Arraignment is set for March 4.

LeBron balls on dunk contest

DENVER — LeBron James is taking a pass on the NBA's All-Star dunk contest.

James ended days of speculation Friday by deciding to sit out the competition because of a sore left ankle and lingering flu symptoms.

"I'm still a little sick and my ankle's still a little tender," James said. "I'm not getting as much lift as I know I can get off this ankle. I'll be there in attendance but I won't be participating in it."

James still plans to play on the sophomore team in the Rookie Challenge and as a starter for the East in the All-Star Game. Competing in the dunk competition will be rookie Josh Smith of Atlanta, J.R. Smith and Chris Andersen of New Orleans and Amare Stoudemire of Phoenix.

Carroll hopes to close Pusan run with Class A title

BY DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

Call it a family affair.

The final installment of Pusan American School's 16-year run as host of the Far East High School Girls Class A Basketball Tournament has the name Carroll stamped all over it:

Joe Jerry and Corina Carroll serve as the tournament's organizers, taking over for the tournament's founding father, Don Miller, who has transferred to Lakenhead, England. Corina works at the school as an administrative aide; Jerry is the Nike representative in Pusan.

Their son, Jerry, works for Hooters. Scoop, the first flap published by the school's student-journalist staff.

■ And daughters Cassie, a freshman guard, and senior guard Brianna plan for the tournament's host team, the Pusan American Panthers.

What better way to end that lengthy tournament-host run than for the Panthers to capture the school's first Class A title since 1994?

While stopping well short of predictions that a contending MVP Brianna Carroll feels the Panthers are in excellent position to far exceed their seventh-place finish of last year, and perhaps reach center court.

The Panthers are preparing for a fight," said Carroll, a three-sport star who's earned All-Class A honors twice in bas-

ketball and three times in soccer but has never played for a Class A title team.

Her team went 9-5 in the Korean-American Interscholastic Activities Conference regular season and now wants the biggest prize of all.

"We're all dreaming that. All of us talk about it every day," Carroll said. "If each one of us brings our 'A' game, we'll be competitive for any school there, for sure."

As the smallest Department of Defense Dependents School in the Pacific, Pusan American's 12th-grade enrollment averages between 45 and 50, and the Panthers have had to augment their roster over the years with seventh and eighth graders.

Not so this year. Second-year coach Jonathan Parker has a full lineup of high school-age players, and the school even has a junior varsity program for the first time.

While Brianna Carroll has been one of the team's centerpiece players for four years, the Panthers boast a solid core of supporting players, including guard Shabrya Hayes and center Kristine Meany, both freshmen.

"They're older. They're really stepped up this year. They've gotten a lot more serious," Carroll says. "I'm happy to have them as teammates."

While the Panthers may not have the best talent and depth in the 12-team tournament, "we can

win on hustle, if each of the girls goes out with the mind-set that they're going to outthrust the other team," Carroll said. "And hustle is what we plan to do."

They'll have to outthrust a field of teams with winning traditions or designs on forming ones of their own.

■ **Taeju American**, which has never won the title, has perhaps its strongest team ever, loaded with veterans such as guard Ashley Gooch, score Lynette Grant and rebounder Kelli Cox and with enough juniors to make a run next year as well. Privately, DODDS officials say Taeju American likely will assume tournament duties in 2006.

■ **International School of the Sacred Heart of Tokyo** returns to defend its title, not as deep as it was a year ago, but still boasting veterans such as senior floor general Mari Look and junior rebounder Alicia Wallingford.

■ **Perhaps hungriest of all is Korea's Oseon American Cougars.** The 2001 and '02 champions just finished the 2003 championship after moving up to the Class AA level. Though their star trait of Tami Burke, Haylee Shaw and Jessica Nelson has graduated, the Cougars went 19-2 in league play this season.

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Far East Girls Class A Basketball Tournament

Dates: Feb. 21-25, 2005.

Site: Pusan American School and Camp Haleah Sports & Fitness Center, Camp Haleah, South Korea.

Participants: International School of the Sacred Heart, Tokyo (defending champion); Taeju American; Oseon American; Faith Academy Vanguard, Rizal, Philippines; Pusan American School; Camp Haleah Sports & Fitness Center, Camp Haleah, South Korea; Pusan American School; Christian American Mustangs, Taichung, Taiwan; St. Mary's School, Seoul, Korea; Pusan American School; Camp Haleah, South Korea; Malvern C. Perry, Semar, Indonesia; U.S. Marine Corps Air Station, Japan; Seoul International Tigers, Songnam, Korea; International Christian School; Guardians; U.S. Christian International Dragons; Taeju, South Korea.

Returning All-Far East players: Brianna Carroll, Pusan American (two-time selections); Lynette Grant, Taeju American; Mina Davis, Elizabeth Juergens, Sharon Krenning, Darian American; Mari Look, International School of the Sacred Heart; Cassie Carroll, St. Paul.

Format: Single round-robin, 12 teams split into two pools of six each. All teams qualify for modified single-elimination playoff games.

Schedule: Opening ceremony 5:30 p.m. Monday at Camp Haleah. Round-robin games begin at 10 a.m. Monday. All games end by 4 p.m. Playoffs begin at 9 a.m. Wednesday and Thursday. Championship game Friday, All-Star Game, DODOS-Pacific vs. Oseon American, Saturday 10 a.m. Closing ceremony to follow, skills competition, team photo, 9:30 a.m. shoot-out and foul shooting, 9:15 a.m. Wednesday.

"I know both Sharon and I want to make this last year memorable," Davis said. "Having Marie on our team is a big plus. We all want this year to be as big as the one else. It just depends on who works harder."

E-mail Dave Ornauer at: ornauer@stripes.com

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Bruschi's return to NFL is uncertain

BY JOHN ALTAVILLA
The Hartford Courant

Considered the heart and soul of the New England Patriots' defense, Teddy Bruschi, married and the father of three young sons, undoubtedly faces the greatest challenge of his life now that he's been discharged from Massachusetts General Hospital.

"This is a major life event," said Dr. Isaac Silverman, Medical Director of the Stroke Center at Hartford Hospital. "At the very least, he'll have to make you wonder about one's health, especially for someone so young."

Two days after having a mild stroke, Bruschi was released from the hospital Friday afternoon, barely two days after he was admitted, which is not unusual in many cases.

"At the very least, that's a positive sign that the injury was comparatively mild," Dr. Silverman said.

The uncertainty that surrounded the onset of his stroke will likely characterize his prognosis for a total recovery — and return to the NFL — in the months to come. Various medical experts conclude it's too early to tell if Bruschi will be able to play, although they say reports detailing his responsiveness, which hospitalized indicate the chances are better.

"There's no reason to believe that he wouldn't be able to play again," said Dr. Hilary Onyuke, chief of neurosurgery at the Uni-



New England linebacker Teddy Bruschi, left, and his wife, Heidi, leave a hospital on Friday. Bruschi had a mild stroke and his ability to play football next season will be determined in a few months.

versity of Connecticut Medical Center.

Dr. Onyuke cautioned that if Bruschi is eventually placed on blood thinners to aid the healing of an arterial dissection, one of the possible causes of the stroke, it would be unlikely he could play because of the danger of uncontrolled bleeding in case of injury.

According to an NFL medical source who spoke on condition of anonymity, Bruschi faces a long road of tests, perhaps two to three months, before doctors can determine the damage that has been done.

"But once he's cleared to play, if he's ever cleared to play, he'll be the first one to know what's going on with his body," the source said. "He'll know what the damage is and what the impact has been."

If Bruschi wants to play, according to the source, he'll also likely be asked to legally exonerate any treating physician from a possible malpractice suit before he's allowed back on the field.

U.S. signs of progress, NHL talks still nothing

With Gretzky, Lemieux present, negotiations stall Saturday

By IRA PODELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Even with Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux at the bargaining table, the NHL and the players' association weren't able to come to an agreement Saturday that would not-u-canceled the hockey season.

NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly told The Associated Press that no progress was made in the 6½-hour meeting. No new talks have been scheduled.

Just three days after the season was called off because of the protracted lockout, the NHL and the union restarted talks at 9 a.m. EDT Saturday at an undisclosed location in New York.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman and players' association executive director Bob Goodenow were not at the meeting, two sources close to the negotiations told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

However, Gretzky, the managing partner of the Phoenix Coyotes, and Lemieux, the player-owner of the Pittsburgh Penguins, joined the talks aimed at getting a deal done that could save the season, the sources said.

Gretzky and Lemieux were joined on the owners' side by Daly and union counsel Bob Bateman, while the union was represented by NHLPA senior direc-

tor Ted Saskin, director of business relations Mike Gartner, players' association president Trevor Linden, vice president Vincent Damphousse, and outside counsel John McCambridge.

The union denied online reports Friday night that an agreement had been reached on a \$45 million salary cap. An NHLPA spokesman told The Associated Press in an e-mail that the report was "absolutely false."

On Wednesday, Bettman canceled the season, saying it was too late to play any semblance of a schedule. That made the NHL, the first major North American sports league to lose a full season to a labor dispute.

In a statement released Friday night, the players' association said the NHL made the offer late Thursday night to get together.

There hadn't been any official contact between the NHL and the players' association since Tuesday night — when the sides traded what they said were final offers.

All proposals were rejected, and Bettman canceled the season in a news conference Wednesday.

Bettman said in a letter to Goodenow on Tuesday that the league's salary-cap proposal of \$42.5 million was as far as he could go and that there was no time or flexibility for negotiation.

Goodenow sent a letter back,

proposing a soft cap at \$49 million that could be exceeded by as much as 10 percent by teams twice during the course of the six-year deal.

It appeared there was momentum toward reaching a deal because the sides were only \$6.5 million apart on their numbers for a cap ceiling. But talking ceased after each side sent two letters to the other on Tuesday night.

There were big breakthroughs Monday in Niagara Falls, N.Y. The NHL agreed to drop its demand that player costs be linked to league revenues, and the union, in turn, came off its steadfast opposition to a salary cap.

Bettman said the NHL couldn't afford the union's final proposal and said if all 30 teams spent \$49 million on player costs, then more money would be paid out to players than last season.

The commissioner said that teams lost more than \$1.8 billion over 10 years, the last time a collective bargaining agreement was reached. The previous lockout cut the 1994-95 regular season to 48 games.

NHL clubs claim to have lost \$273 million in 2002-03 and \$224 million last season.

Bettman said a deal would have to be in the drafting stages by the end of last weekend if there was going to be time to play a 28-game season and a standard 16-team postseason.

Prospective Vikings owner apologizes for resume gaffes

By DAVE CAMPBELL
The Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — Reggie Fowler apologized Friday for mistakes he made in misleading the public about his background and reiterated he has the money to buy the Minnesota Vikings.

The Arizona businessman, poised to become the NFL's first black owner, has an agreement to purchase the club from Red McCombs — pending league approval.

Fowler met with the Twin Cities media to accept responsibility for inaccuracies in a biography distributed earlier this week by a public relations firm he's using, attempt to repair his name and pledge his sincerity and passion to fans.

His original bio claimed he played in the NFL with the Cincinnati Bengals, in the Canadian Football League with the Calgary Stampeders and in the Little League World Series as an 11-year-old.

Fowler, a star linebacker at Wyoming, was cut in training camp by the Bengals and by the Edmonton Eskimos — not the Steelers. Clarifying the Little League confusion, Fowler said

he played with an all-star team in a tournament in California that was called the World Series.

Though he refused to declare any parts of the botched bio embellishments or deceptions, Fowler acknowledged that he intentionally doctored his resume years ago — to show he graduated from Wyoming with a degree in business administration and an emphasis in finance.

Fowler, who took business classes but actually received a degree in social work, said he fudged his resume after graduating in the early 1980s to look better for prospective employers.

Regarding the CFL confusion, Fowler said he remembered Thursday — by looking at a W-2 form — that he reported to Calgary initially before being sent to Edmonton, where he was cut after a brief stint.

The biography came from his office in Chandler, Ariz., where Fowler runs Spiral Inc., a business that has numerous real estate holdings and owns companies in several industries.

Estimating the last time he created a resume was more than 20 years ago, Fowler said the errors — other than the degree discrepancy — came from oversights.

Martin wins record 12th IROC race

The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Mark Martin became the winningest driver in IROC history, moving past the late Dale Earnhardt and Al Unser Jr. by taking the season-opening race Friday at Daytona International Speedway.

Martin earned his 12th International Race of Champions victory by fending off NASCAR Nextel Cup star Matt Kenseth on a restart with four laps remaining. Then Martin held off Martin Truex Jr. over the final laps and beat him to the finish line by half of a car length.

"The king of IROC won the race, and I'll finish second to him anytime," said Truex, the NASCAR champion Series champion making his IROC debut.

Bobby Hamilton, NASCAR's truck series champion, was third.

Kenseth ended up fourth after leading 31 of the first 36 laps in the 40-lap event.

Kenseth was in front when the race was halted for about 10 minutes after a multi-car accident that included IndyCar star Helio Castroneves, 19-time World of Outlaws champion Steve Kinser, Grand American Road Racing driver Scott Pruett and Champ Car's Sebastian Bourdais.

Auto Racing Roundup

Martin started the melee when he ran into the back of Kenseth, causing the 2003 Cup champion to slow and sparking a series of crashes.

Kinser ran into Pruett, who then spun into the wall and took Bourdais with him. Castroneves, second to Kenseth for much of the race, also was caught up in the mess.

Kenseth, the defending IROC champion, looked primed to win his third consecutive race. But World of Outlaws star Dale Earnhardt Jr. bumped him on the restart, forced him to wiggle and allowed Martin to drive by on the outside.

Kenseth held on from there to secure the record.

"I thought about that on that restart. That's pretty special," Martin said. "If you race enough and you go good enough, you try hard enough, your day will come. It seems like I have bad luck all the time, but I haven't thought."

Hamilton wins wild truck race

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Bobby Hamilton was standing on pit road and Jimmy Spencer was celebrating in Victory Lane.

Then they switched positions.

Hamilton was awarded a victory in the wreck-filled Florida Dodge Dealers 250 on Friday night at Daytona International Speedway after Spencer initially took the checkered flag and drove into the winner's circle.

It was the perfect ending for a frenzied race that included countless lead changes, several major crashes and two flipping trucks.

"That was pretty wild," Hamilton said.

Hamilton took the lead after a restart with one lap to go, but Spencer was back in front when an eight-truck wreck started behind the leaders. However, before the caution flag came out, Hamilton moved back in front.

NASCAR officials quickly changed the result, but not after Spencer had made his way to Victory Lane. Spencer smiled and showed his chest as he was told the news.

"It was almost a no-brainer," Hamilton said. "I pretty much knew it. I had confidence in what was going to happen."

The 2004 season champion picked up his ninth career truck victory and became the series' first driver to win from the last starting spot.

No. 2 falls again as Iowa St. stays hot

BY DOUG TUCKER
The Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Iowa State Cyclones are well past their humble goal of stopping an embarrassing six-game losing streak.

Now they're beating ranked teams on the road and riding a season-saving, seven-game winning streak. And after starting the Big 12 season 0-5, they're ready to settle for nothing less than an NCAA tournament bid.

Curtis Stinson scored 29 points, including the game-winner in the lane with 5.1 seconds left in overtime, and the Cyclones pulled off their most improbable victory yet, stunning No. 2 Kansas 63-61 on Saturday. Stinson had all seven of Iowa State's points in overtime.

The end of the Jayhawks' 32-game conference home winning streak could eventually cost Kansas a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament, a field the Cyclones believe they should be a part of.

"Beating the No. 2 team at home. It is not better than that," said Stinson, whose injured left leg kept him off the court for the opening 4:25 of the game.

"I hurt it in practice," the husky sophomore guard said. "I hit it again tonight. I am a competitor, and I am going to play hard." The Jayhawks' (19-3, 10-2) erased a nine-point deficit in the last 2 minutes of regulation. But all game long they had no answer for Stinson or Iowa State's aggressive 2-3 zone and they finished with a season-low point total.

Stinson hit a short jumper over Keith Langford for the game-winning shot.

"He is great," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "We had no answer for Curtis Stinson."

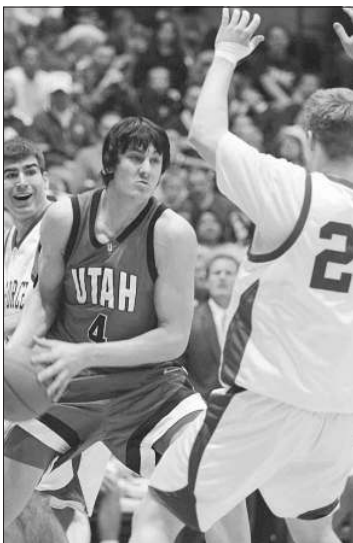
Five days after losing by one point in double overtime at Texas Tech, the Jayhawks shot only 34.5 percent and were 4-for-23 from beyond the three-point arc.

"Offensively, we didn't have any rhythm at all," Self said. "We were out of sync all day. These guys have performed at a high level for a long time but today we were as poor as we can be offensively."

The Cyclones (15-8, 7-5) have beaten Texas, Texas Tech, Oklahoma and Kansas — all ranked teams — during the streak and won their conference road game after not winning a league game away from home for almost four years.

"I thought my kids played their heart out the whole game," Cyclones coach Wayne Morgan said. "They didn't give up and they kept fighting. Not a lot of teams come in here and win."

Stinson's winning shot came right after Langford missed two free throws. Langford then missed a desperation 17-footer just before the buzzer.



Iowa's Andrew Bogut slips between Air Force forwards Marc Holum, left, and Jacob Buttschi on the way to the basket during the first half of Saturday's game. The 14th-ranked Utes beat Air Force 65-56.

7 feet of trouble

Utah center too much for Falcons; Bucknell hands Army 21st defeat

The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Andrew Bogut scored 20 of his 23 points in the second half Saturday and No. 14 Utah beat Air Force 65-56 for its 13th straight victory and clinched the Mountain West Conference title.

In what may have been the most impressive victory of a streak which began Dec. 17, the Utes (23-3, 11-0 Mountain West) snuffed Air Force's 24-game home winning streak.

Air Force (15-10, 6-4), ranked 104th in the latest RPI ratings, lost a chance for a quality victory it dearly needed to make the NCAA tournament for the second straight year. The Falcons, who came in with a half-game lead over Wyoming for second place, are now fighting for seeding for the conference tournament, which they might have to win to get into the NCAA field.

Jacob Buttschi had 15 points for the Falcons, all in the first half before Bogut started taking over on both ends of the floor. The 7-foot Australian scored eight points during a 10-0 run that gave Utah a 36-32 lead and set the tone to open the second half.

He centered shots on defense and generally frustrated Air Force, which by slowing things played into Bogut's hands.

Service Academies

With Utah on top 53-45 with about 2 minutes left, Bogut altered Nick Welch's shot, then blocked Dan Nwaele's attempt after the rebound — a typical sequence for the Utes, who allowed only three field goals over the first 15 minutes of the second half.

Bryant Markson scored 15 points and Marc Jackson had 12 for Utah, which has the second-longest winning streak in the nation, behind only top-ranked Illinois' 27.

The Falcons, whose last home loss came March 3, 2003, to Utah.

Bucknell 69, Army 55: At West Point, N.Y., Charles Lee scored 22 points and Kevin Bettencourt 14 for Bucknell (18-8), which took control with runs of 18-2 in the first half and 24-9 in the second.

Army (3-21) led 13-8 only to have the Bison build a 26-15 lead as Lee hit two three-pointers.

Army was within 30-24 at half-time, but Bucknell built a 54-33 margin over the first 11 minutes of the second half.

Matt Bell led Army with 23 points. Grant Carter and Jarell Brown added 11 points apiece.

It's 27 and counting for unbeaten Illinois

The Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Deron Williams and De Brown each scored 18 points and Illinois turned back repeated threats by Iowa on Saturday to beat the Hawkeyes 76-65.

Illinois (27-0, 13-0 Big Ten) survived foul problems, a determined opponent and a subpar game by leading scorer Luther Head to keep several streaks intact. In addition to the nation's longest winning streak, the Illini have won 23 straight conference games and 14 in a row on the road.

Iowa (16-9, 4-8) fell to 1-4 since leading scorer Pierre Pierce was kicked off the team for disciplinary reasons. The Hawkeyes trailed by just two points with 4½ minutes to play before Illinois' 14-5 run finished it.

Every Illinois starter had at least three fouls and forward Roger Powell, who was whistled four times, was limited to 15 minutes. James Augustine added 13 points for the Illini, while Head, averaging 16.9, managed just seven on 1-for-7 shooting.

Adam Haluska led Iowa with 20 points, Greg Brunner had 15 and Jeff Horner 12.

Trailblazing 12 early in the second half, Iowa kept clawing and got within two points three times, the last at 40-58 on Mike Henderson's two free throws with 4:34 left.

Nick Smith made two free

Men's Top 25 Roundup

throws, Williams hit a 10-footer and the ultra-quick Brown scored on a breakaway to make it 66-58. After Horner's three-pointer, Brown answered with a deep three of his own. When the 7-foot-2 Smith made a three-pointer from the right corner — his second of the season — with 51 seconds to play, the Illini were up 72-63 and were, finally, out of danger.

No. 4 North Carolina 88, Clemson 56: At Chapel Hill, N.C., Jawad Williams scored 17 points and sixth-man Marvin Williams added 14 as North Carolina won its 51st straight without a loss at home against Clemson.

Clemson's futility in Chapel Hill is the longest active losing streak in the country. Penn holds the record with 52 straight home victories over Brown.

Sean May finished with 12 points and 13 rebounds for the Tar Heels (22-3, 10-2), who moved into a first-place tie with Wake Forest in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Sharrord Ford led Clemson (12-13, 2-10).

No. 8 Oklahoma St. 85, Texas Tech 56: At Stillwater, Okla., John Lucas III scored 25 points and JamesOn Curry had 10 of his

15 in the second half as Oklahoma State pulled into a tie for the Big 12 lead with No. 2 Kansas.

Curry scored 10 points during a 14-2 run that helped Oklahoma State (20-3, 10-2) pull away early in the second half. Curry hit a three-pointer from the right wing to start the run and Lucas added a fast-break layup, then slashed across the lane on the Cowboys' first possession and passed the ball to Ivan McFarlin, who dunked it with two hands.

Curry added a jumper from the right wing and a long three-pointer from beyond the top of the key before finishing the run with a right-handed jam on a fast break to make it 54-32 with 13:29 to play.

Lucas stretched the lead to 67-40 with a three-pointer.

No. 11 Michigan St. 68, Purdue 57: At West Lafayette, Ind., Alan Anderson and Maurice Ager each scored 12 points as the Spartans ruined the day on which retiring Boilermakers coach Gene Keady was honored for his 25 seasons at Purdue.

Purdue State (19-4, 10-2 Big Ten) won its fifth straight by limiting Michigan to 36.8 percent shooting and outpacing Purdue 10-0 on the fast break.

Michigan led the Boilermakers (7-16, 3-9) with 15 points. The Spartans have won nine of 10 with the only loss in that stretch coming to No. 1 Illinois.

No. 16 Alabama 87, South

Carolina 68: At Tuscaloosa, Ala., Kenneth Winston and Earnest Shelton combined to hit seven three-pointers in the second half for Alabama. Each had three three-pointers in the first 10 minutes after intermission to ensure the Crimson Tide (21-4, 10-2 Southeastern Conference) wouldn't even come close to becoming another high-profile victim of the Gamecocks.

Held to a combined six points in the first half, Winston finished with 19 and Shelton 16 as Alabama remained unbeaten at home and won for the 10th time in 11 games.

Despite a strong start, the Gamecocks (14-9, 6-0) couldn't duplicate Tuesday night's 73-61 upset of No. 3 Kentucky, their first victory over a ranked opponent in nearly three years. Alabama started a 33-8 run in the final 5 minutes of the first half to turn a one-point game into a rout.

No. 21 Oklahoma 69, Kansas St. 68: At Manhattan, Kan., 5-foot-7 Drew Lavender's baseline basket at the buzzer capped a 29-point performance as Oklahoma (19-6, 8-4 Big 12) ended a three-game road losing streak.

Clint Stewie's free throw with 4.5 seconds to go gave Kansas State (13-10, 3-9) a 68-67 lead.

Time expired as Lavender's shot hit the rim, bounced twice — each time off the back of Oklahoma player's hands — and fell through to extend the Wildcats' losing streak to six games.

SPORTS

Girls and boys Class A
Far East Tournament
previews, Page 27-28

All-Star Game lacking drama

NBA showcase features little luster to lure in fans this year

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN
The Associated Press

DENVER — A mile above sea level, just a little to the left of America's midsection, the NBA All-Star Game has arrived lacking a clear-cut theme.

It will be LeBron James' first appearance and Shaquille O'Neal's 12th in the league's showcase event, and in between those two on the frequency meter are 22 other well-deserving players of various shapes and sizes — though there's a nary a Nugget to represent the host team, and no compelling story line to reel in the casual fan.

"Whoa, I have no idea. Better ask someone else," Ben Wallace of the Detroit Pistons said when asked to come up with a motif for this year's game.

"I can't come up with something. I don't know," offered Tracy McGrady of the Rockets. "Kobe against Shaq," opined Yao Ming, who might have forgotten that the feuding superstars already had their first official on-court clash back on Christmas Day.

"How about Yao vs. Shaq?" Yao was asked

in return. After all, those two were teamed on the Western Conference squad the past two years before O'Neal was traded last summer to Miami. This time, O'Neal will be starting for the East and jumping center against Yao when the opening tip goes up.

"I won't be using all six of my fouls against him," Yao predicted.

This will be the league's 54th All-Star Game and the first time in 21 years it's being held in Denver. It comes dur-

ing a somewhat troubled year, the defining moment of the current season coming on the third Friday of November when Ron Artest and Stephen Jackson of the Pacers charged into the stands and pummeled Pistons fans as a wild brawl broke out in the final minute of an Indiana-Detroit game.

Two of the principal figures from that troubling night, Indiana's Jermaine O'Neal and Detroit's Wallace, will be teammates on an East squad that will try to break the conference's three-game All-Star losing streak.

Both Jermaine O'Neal and Wallace already have served suspensions stemming from the melee, but both can certainly count on the

topic being brought up ad nauseum over the course of the three-day All-Star weekend.

"There are a lot of positive things going on in this league.

People want to take the negative things to write about," Jermaine O'Neal said last week. "We have good players in this league. We have players that take care of kids who need things in the community, that take care of families that need things, but you don't see that written."

The NBA is doing what it can to try to steer the focus away from the negative, and there's no shortage of feel-good events — including the Read-to-Achieve Caravan, a Jr.NBA/WNBA Basketball and Books clinic, several hospital visits and the hugely popular Jam Session — taking place throughout the week.

The city will be overrun with fans, sponsors, media, players and hangers-on, and the All-Star party scene typically goes strong into the wee hours. With the rookie game held on Friday night for the second straight year, and the three-point shootout and dunk contest taking place Saturday night, the event has morphed into a 72-hour conglomeration of activity.

SEE GAME ON PAGE 30



**No. 14 Utah ends
Air Force's
24-game home
winning streak;
No. 2 Kansas
upset by Iowa St.**

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**Gretzky, Lemieux
join renewed
NHL negotiations,
but talks break off
without progress**

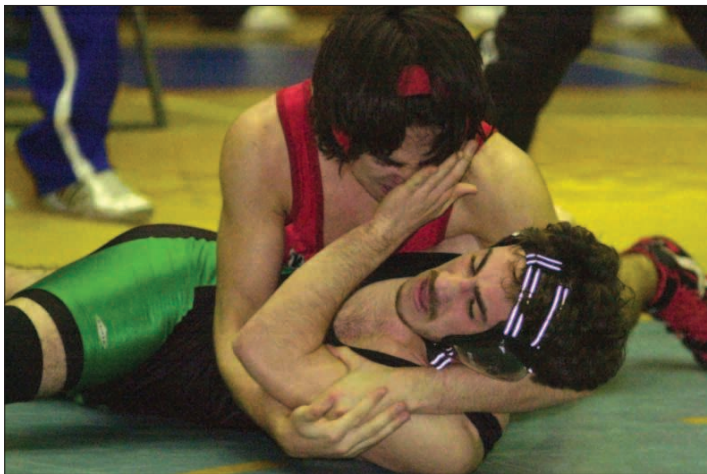
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**Big Unit gives
Boss good
impression;
Red Sox keep up
verbal attacks**

Page 30

Getting a hold on title



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Kenji Doughty, top, of Japan's Nile C. Kinnick Red Devils locks up Willie Stroud of Okinawa's Kubsasaki Dragons during Saturday's dual-meet championship in the 2005 Far East High School Wrestling Tournament at Capps Gym, Yokota High School, Yokota Air Base, Japan. Doughty pinned Stroud in 3:40, but Kubsasaki prevailed over Kinnick in the dual meet 26-26 on pinfall criteria. See story on Page 27.

